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Students seek answers on proposed police force

By JACOB TOOK
News & Features Editor

Since the University announced its intent to create its own private police force, many students have questioned what this force would look like and how the school will take into account their concerns.

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a forum on Tuesday to address the University's plan to form this police force, which would patrol on and around the University's Baltimore campuses. Provost Sunil Kumar, along with other administrators, responded to questions and comments from students.

In its initial announcement on March 5, the University declared its support for Maryland legislation which, if passed, would authorize Hopkins to work with the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) to create an independent police force.

Some support the proposal as an effort to increase public safety for Hopkins and its adjacent neighborhoods.

Others oppose the creation of a private force, cit-

ing concerns such as racial profiling by armed police, a lack of transparency from the University and whether this force would effectively ensure public safety.

Joining Kumar at the forum were Vice Provost of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, Executive Director of Campus Safety and Security Christina Presberry, Director of Campus Safety at the Peabody Institute Rodney Giacomelli and Special Advisor to the Vice President for Local Government, Community and Corporate Affairs Jeanne Hitchcock.

"To know that there are police on campus with guns — I won't feel safe."

— NOH MEBRAHTU,
SGA EXECUTIVE
PRESIDENT

Kumar said that the University made this decision after a recent increase in crime in the City. According to Kumar, there have been 18 armed robberies near Hopkins campuses since September, 12 of which involved students, faculty or staff.

He added that the University consulted with peer institutions to determine how best to proceed with the formation of its own department.

"We will put together a police force that will lift up the values of the University," he said. "There is

SEE POLICE, PAGE A6



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU

Alongside national school walkouts, Hopkins students gathered on Keyser Quad and marched to the Beach, calling for stricter gun control measures.

Campus walkout calls for increased gun control

By SARAH Y. KIM
News & Features Editor

Over 100 Hopkins students, faculty and staff joined a walkout protesting gun violence on Wednesday morning. The demonstration was part of a national school walkout, in which thousands of students across the U.S. left their classrooms to participate.

The walkout began at 10 a.m. and ended at 10:17 a.m. Each minute represented one of the 17 students killed in the mass school shooting on Feb. 14. at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (Stoneman Douglas) in Parkland, Fla.

Demonstrators held signs

reading "never again" and "ballots not bullets," as well as the names of those killed at Stoneman Douglas.

Sophomore Class President Anthony Boutros, one of the organizers of the Hopkins walkout, opened with a speech on the front steps of Gilman Hall.

"We're here today to mourn for the victims of Columbine to Parkland, from victims of suicide to mass shooting," Boutros said. "We're here today because activists and survivors are demanding that these atrocities never happen again. We are here today to rise with them because we demand 'never again.'"

After Boutros' speech,

sophomore Emily Franco read aloud the names and brief descriptions of all 17 victims.

In an interview with *The News-Letter*, Boutros explained that he and other organizers hoped that these tributes would make demonstrators feel closer to those directly affected by shooting.

"These 17 people are no

longer with us but they had such an influence on their communities and their families," he said. "They could have done so much more had senseless gun violence not taken them away."

Demonstrators proceeded to march to the Beach, chanting slogans such as "never again," "no more guns," "we will vote,"

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Samantha Power discusses U.S. foreign policy at FAS



DAVID SAVELIEV/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Demonstrators held a silent protest during Samantha Power's FAS talk.

By JOHN FRYE
For *The News-Letter*

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power spoke about the importance of diplomacy and national unity as part of the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) on Tuesday.

Power, who served as ambassador from 2013 to 2017, presided over the Obama administration's foreign policy initiatives. During her tenure, she advocated for the controversial 2011 military intervention in Libya, as well as U.S. support for the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen — a decision that many decry as having contributed to starvation and civilian deaths in the country.

In response to these decisions, protesters from Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) staged a silent protest in front of the audience while she spoke. The

event ended with a Q&A session during which she addressed the demonstrators' criticisms.

Power began her prepared remarks by elaborating on the divisiveness that has plagued America and the steps ordinary people can take to bridge that gap.

She recounted how, during the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II, it took only a few citizens to fight back against nationwide prejudice. She stated that the division that racked the U.S. in the 1940s is apparent today and that we need young people to overcome their pessimism to breach the divide.

"We all, these days, need a dose of perspective, and for me history often provides it," Power said. "The salience of political identity seems now to be transcending that of parents, fellow children of parents,

SEE POWER, PAGE A7

Hopkins activists join Working Women's Day March

By BRIANNA DANG
For *The News-Letter*

Students joined members of the community in the Baltimore International Working Women's Day 2018 March, initiated by the Women's Fightback Network, on March 10. Tzedek, a student organization, organized a rally at the Beach and a subsequent march to the People's Park in Station North.

After convening at the People's Park, demonstrators marched to the St. John's United Methodist Church where they listened to Takiyah Thompson. Thompson is an activist and student at

North Carolina Central University who illegally tore down a Confederate statue at a protest in Durham, N.C. in the aftermath of the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va.

The morning of the March, students gathered on the Beach. Representatives from Tzedek and other student groups, including Refuel Our Future, Students for a Democratic Society and Students for Justice in Palestine, spoke about the injustices that they fight against.

Senior Miranda Bachman, a founding member of Tzedek, opened the speeches with a history of Inter-

national Working Women's Day, describing how it has been whitewashed by corporations and Western countries.

Bachman then discussed her personal motivations for attending the March.

"The reason I'm here has a lot to do with history," she said. "My great grandmother was born into a Jewish village which is in Poland now, and she escaped from there in 1902 and came to America, fleeing religious persecution."

According to Bachman, Tzedek's overall goal is to encourage students to engage with the Baltimore community. She empha-

sized that the majority of Hopkins students come from privileged upbringings and small communities where they interacted with people of similar backgrounds or social status.

"You have to walk into a space and be like 'I don't know anything, I'm just here to listen,'" Bachman said. "The more you listen, the more you learn."

Sophomore Kendall Free, representing the Black Student Union, spoke about her early exposure to feminism and the exclusion of women of color from the feminist white middle class agenda. She was astounded by the

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lacrosse defeats Syracuse



The Hopkins men's lacrosse team beat Syracuse University 18-7 in front of an audience of over 5,000 people.

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Racial profiling on campus

Jordan Britton discusses his experience being racially profiled by Campus Security at Hopkins. VOICES, PAGE A8

Tasteful brunch at foraged.

Jesse Wu reviews locally-sourced cuisine at foraged., owned by Chris Amendola, which offers delicious brunch dishes on its menu. ARTS, B5

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA discusses private police and gun control

By **GIULIANA LEOTTA**
For *The News-Letter*

At its weekly Tuesday meeting, the Student Government Association (SGA) discussed a resolution calling for solidarity with victims and survivors of the mass school shooting at Parkland, Fla. on Feb. 14. The resolution calls for national action on gun control and asks the University to support gun reform initiatives.

Executive Vice President AJ Tsang presented the resolution, which was sponsored by Freshman Senator Aspen Williams, Freshman Senator Lauren Paulet and Sophomore Class President Anthony Boutros.

The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (Stoneman Douglas) took 17 lives and injured 14 others. Since then, students across the nation have been walking out of class to call for increased gun control and gun reform measures. They have also hosted rallies, speeches and other demonstrations.

"Civic Engagement and I have been working on this for a few weeks now," Tsang said. "In the aftermath of the Parkland shooting a few weeks ago, we were inspired to write a resolution to show solidarity with the survivors and victims of the tragedy as well as to call for action here at Hopkins."

Specifically, the resolution asks the University to support student demonstrations in favor of gun reform, stop granting honorary degrees to individuals, especially politicians, who fail to support gun control measures and divest from companies that are connected to the sale of firearms.

Clause E of the resolution requests that the University not fund "any campus-safety initiative that would arm JHU affiliates, including faculty, staff, and any affiliate employed by the University security apparatus."

Some SGA members questioned whether this point of the resolution related to the newly proposed campus police force.

Tsang responded that the clause was a response to a nationally proposed public safety initiative that called for arming teachers. He also clarified that the resolution was drafted before the University announced the campus police force.

Senior Class President Kwame Alston noted that SGA has not yet reached an official stance on the University aim to establish a private police force.

"We have not taken a stance on whether or not we're for or against the private police as the SGA yet, and this resolution was written before the [possibility of Hopkins having the private police] came out. We have to decide, as a whole, whether we're against the private police," Alston said.

It was clarified that a

University police force would indeed be armed. Questions arose regarding the types of arms that the University police would carry.

There was a failed motion to remove Clause E. The resolution was then passed unanimously.

SGA also approved funding for several student groups seeking additional support for their events. Student-run non-profit organization TCO Labs brought forward a request

"We have to decide, as a whole, whether we're against the [private] police."

— **KWAME ALSTON,**
SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

for funding. The funds would be used in addition to other funding to host an event on campus that would allow undergraduates to network with local businesses as well as run entrepreneurship workshops.

Some members raised concerns about the spending that SGA has been approving and urged other members to be more critical about organizations they were funding, especially considering previous funding request denials. Despite disagreement over the groups that should and should not be given money, TCO Labs' request was passed, 18-1.

Wyman Park Dell rededicated to Harriet Tubman

By **MORGAN OME**
News & Features Editor

A portion of Wyman Park Dell, a park south of Homewood Campus and the former site of a Confederate monument, was rededicated to honor Harriet Tubman. The rededication ceremony took place on Saturday, March 10, which marked the 105th anniversary of her death.

Tubman was an abolitionist and conductor of the Underground Railroad in the late 19th century. She was born in Dorchester County, Md.

Several community leaders and government officials attended the ceremony, including City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, who was the first to introduce legislation to create Harriet Tubman Grove. Clarke represents the 14th district, which includes Charles Village and the surrounding area. She spoke about the significance of taking back spaces that previously honored Confederate generals.

"This is the day we reclaim and celebrate the dedication of this grove to Harriet Tubman, the first rededication since our mayor gave flight to four public Confederate memorials now vacated and today reclaimed in the spirit of the Baltimore community," she said.

In August, Mayor Catherine Pugh took down the City's four Confederate monuments overnight, following a unanimous

City Council resolution calling for their removal. Since then, the pedestals on which the Confederate monuments once stood have remained empty.

Tierra Brown, a representative from the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, was optimistic that the Dell would grow to be an important location in the community.

"Since the removal of the Lee-Jackson statue, this park has become a gathering place for city residents of all backgrounds to meet, talk and enjoy the location as a space that symbolizes hope," she said. "We are honored to be here today to support the name change to Harriet Tubman Grove. [It] will provide the city an opportunity to correct a historic injustice to a Maryland native."

Civil rights leader Marvin "Doc" Cheatham has been taking efforts to remove Baltimore's Confederate statues since 2013 and reflected on how community members affected change.

"What I see here today is young and old, black and white, all folks coming together for something very important," he said. "This community — you did what needed to be done."

Ernestine Jones Williams, a family member of Tubman, expressed her gratitude for those who worked to honor Tubman.

"It is such a privilege and an honor to be here today to witness such a great gathering," she said. "We stand on



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Community members gathered for the rededication ceremony on Saturday.

the shoulders of this great woman... I want to thank each and every one of you for your attendance here today. We are overwhelmed."

Jubilee Arts, a community organization that offers arts programming, created commemorative fabric bags to honor the rededication of Wyman Park Dell. The organization sold the bags, which depicted Tubman carrying a lantern, alongside t-shirts and other merchandise that members of Jubilee Arts designed.

Deshawn Richards, a high school student who works with Jubilee Arts, explained that one of the organization's initiatives is to encourage youth to lead business initiatives. He was glad that the organization's merchandise celebrated Tubman.

"We wanted to make something positive for the community," he said.

Community members like Lisa Lewenz have often passed by the Dell and wished that the Lee-Jackson monument would be removed. The rededication ceremony, Lewenz said, was

an emotional experience.

"Nearly 30 years ago, I always saw this statue and was very upset about it. I never imagined it would be gone," she said. "I'm incredibly teary."

Evan Drukker-Schardl, a sophomore, was in Baltimore when the Confederate monuments were first removed and attended the ceremony to witness the park's transformation.

"To come here as the next step in repurposing this space as something that is more representative of the community is really important to me," he said.

Drukker-Schardl added that he is happy that Harriet Tubman is being honored for her achievements, especially since many activists like himself see Tubman as a role model.

"I'm involved with a number of different organizations and movements in the city, and a lot of them take inspiration from Harriet Tubman and follow her example as someone who put herself on the line for justice in the world," he said.

Students march to President Daniels' home, protesting proposed police



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

Protestors gathered in front of President Daniels' home on March 8.

By **MORGAN OME**
News & Features Editor

Over 100 students, faculty and community members gathered outside of Brody to protest against a proposed Hopkins police force on Thursday afternoon. Later, protesters marched through Gilman Hall to University President Ronald J. Daniels' home to voice their criticisms.

Last Monday the University announced its support for legislation that would grant independent institutions in Baltimore the ability to form their own police departments.

Many have expressed concerns that a campus police force would further damage relations between the University and the Baltimore community and would threaten the safety of students, particularly students of color. Others, however, argue that a Hopkins police force would better protect students and reduce crime on and around campus.

The protest was organized by Students Against Private Police, a coalition of 11 student groups including Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and the

Black Student Union (BSU).

Protesters shouted chants like "No justice / no peace / no private police," "Black lives matter," "Ronny D loves BPD" and "Bad for Baltimore / Bad for Hop / Pay taxes, not cops!"

Several community leaders and students, like freshman Jason Souvaliotis, spoke to a crowd outside of Brody to explain why they oppose a Hopkins police force. Souvaliotis, a member of SDS, said that he and other organizers wanted to send a message to the University.

"The bill contradicts our institution's core values of transparency and inclusion — well, at least what we say our core values are," he said.

Junior Chisom Okereke, the vice president of the BSU, added that she is worried about how the proposed police force would treat black students at Hopkins.

"Being a black student on this campus means that it is assumed by law enforcement that you do not attend this institution or are simply up to no good," she said.

"Partnering with the Baltimore Police Department, arguably the most corrupt police department in the country, shows a complete disregard for students of color on this campus that

would otherwise be brutalized if they lived just a few blocks down the street."

The last speaker, senior Jessa Wais, who is a Baltimore native, called on Hopkins to take more constructive steps to serve the City.

"Baltimore is a city with a lot of issues. It's also a city with a lot of beauty and a lot of strength," she said. "There are so many ways that Hopkins can and should direct its resources to make Baltimore a better, healthier and safer place. Investing massive amounts of money into a private police force is not one of them."

Following Wais' remarks, protesters marched across Keyser Quad through Gilman Hall while continuing their chants. Some carried signs with slogans like "More community / less police," "We don't want a militarized campus" and "Who are you here to protect?"

After exiting Gilman Hall, protesters gathered outside of Daniels' home. Campus security told students to stay on the sidewalk, away from Daniels' house, but ultimately allowed protesters to congregate near the front of his home.

Lieutenant Stephen Moffett of Hopkins Campus Safety and Security was present throughout the protest alongside other school security officials. He explained that he was there to ensure the security of both protesters and bystanders.

"Our role is simply to make sure that everyone has a safe space to express their beliefs, and that's why we're here," he said.

Moffett also said that this protest did not violate any aspects of the contro-

versial "Guidelines for Students in Support of Free Expression Through Protests and Demonstrations at the Homewood Campus."

Senior Kyra Meko, president of SEA, explained that she and other organizers planned the protest within days. She believes it is important for the Hopkins administration to be aware of students' concerns.

"We figured that if President Daniels is okay with sending a private police force into communities where people live, he wouldn't mind some visitors at his own house letting him know what they think," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Sophomore James Burnett, who led several of the chants throughout the march, was surprised that so many students turned out for the protest. He believes it is crucial for students to concern themselves with community issues in addition to their academics.

"If you go to Hopkins you are part of the greater Baltimore community. You can't just stay in your books," Burnett said. "The people in Gilman — their faces were completely shook when we walked in there."

According to Alicia Badea, a member of SDS, the protest is just one way that organizers plan to voice their opposition. She added that defeating the Maryland legislation that would authorize Hopkins to create a police force, House Bill 1803 and Senate Bill 1241, is essential.

"[We are] definitely going to contact representatives for the Senate and House bills and afterward keep up with

further demonstrations and events," Badea said.

Meko stressed that students will continue to make their demands heard.

"A private police force would negatively impact the many Baltimore communities that Hopkins has already impoverished, displaced, and gentrified. It's our job as students to use our position of privilege to stand up to the University," she wrote.

In a statement sent to *The News-Letter*, the University explained that it will take into account input from affiliates and community members alike. The University hopes to use this feedback to inform its decisions.

"It is important to note that we are at the beginning of a comprehensive process," the statement read. "Under the proposed legislation, the specific size, scope, training, jurisdiction, and capabilities of a university police department would be developed in the months ahead."

In addition, the University stated that it is soliciting feedback by reaching out to neighborhood associations and community leaders, holding information sessions at its campuses and taking comments online.

"The conversations we have with our community and neighbors will inform our decisions on these specific issues, as will the conversations we have with experts at peer institutions in the city and across the country—most of which already have university police departments," the statement read.

This is an abridged version of an online article.

NEWS & FEATURES

TEDxJHU hosts “Forging the Future” conference

By JAMES SCHARF
Staff Writer

Student run organization TEDxJHU hosted nine speakers at its annual spring conference on Saturday, March 10. The speakers included activists, artists and a Hopkins professor.

This year, the conference theme was “Forging the Future.” Junior Ansh Bhammar, one of the curators of the event, described the theme as a reaction to the current political climate.

“Right now we’re in a time of uncertainty in a lot of realms — political, social, academic and professional,” Bhammar said. “We really wanted to use this year’s main event to highlight how we can progress and move forward to solve those issues.”

Speakers drew from personal experiences in their speeches. For example, graduate student George Mwinyaa spoke about how statistics in public health services can often be misleading.

“After my experience in the national immunization program [in Ghana], I got to learn that public health isn’t always about services. It’s about numbers,” he said.

He noted how despite the increased use of mosquito netting in Africa, the overall number of malaria cases has increased in recent years. He believes that properly fighting malaria requires observing how Africans were using the nets rather than just statistics about how many nets were distributed.

The event also hosted Katerina Jeng and Krystie Mak, co-founders of *Slant’d*, a publication which seeks to address Asian-American stereotypes. Jeng and Mak discussed how their childhood experiences with discrimination impacted their lives.

“For many Asian Americans, our story was written for us, not by us,” Jeng said.

Jordan Green, an associate professor of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at Hopkins, described how his initial experiences talking to engineers encouraged him to focus on projects that improved people’s lives, rather than profit margins.

As a student, Green talked to an engineer who talked about his work designing toothpaste. The toothpaste was designed to trick users into thinking that their teeth were cleaner than when they used other toothpaste brands.

Green decided he wanted to use engineering to do more honest work.

“Right then and there, I decided that this is not what I wanted to do with my life,” Green said.

Green’s lab focuses on creating synthetic viruses that can reprogram cells to treat illnesses.

René Vidal, a BME professor at Hopkins, discussed the advances in computer imaging that are currently revolutionizing medicine.

Tori Rose, a freshman BME major, appreciated listening to personal stories from people in her depart-

ment.

“It’s nice to hear what motivates them to do these amazing things from them,” Rose said.

Other Hopkins affiliates who spoke at the event focused on medicine as well. Dr. Sapna Kudchadkar, a pediatric intensivist and anesthesiologist, spoke about the changes in pediatric intensive care units (ICU’s) that she has worked to introduce to Hopkins Hospital.

Her research suggests that activity and deep sleep aid children in their recovery after a hospital stay.

“Clearly the expectation of recovery was different than the reality,” Kudchadkar said. “For decades, we have had recovery systems that prioritize staff convenience in lieu of patient sleep.”

Another speaker, Aaron Maybin, agreed that art could be a powerful tool for societal change.

Maybin is a former NFL athlete turned community organizer and art teacher. He hopes to provide his elementary school students with proper heating, as well as other necessities.

“Change has never been the direct result of any march, it has never been the result of any retweet and it has never been the direct result of anybody sharing anything. But it has come from organizing,” he said.

When the Baltimore heating crisis hit in January, Maybin tweeted a 45-second video in which he talks to elementary school students and asks them about their day. In response, the kids say “cold.” The video went viral.

For Rose, hearing from Maybin in person brought the Baltimore space heater problem closer to home.

“I’d heard about the space heater issue, but I never knew what his work did in the viral video he made,” she said.

The final speaker, Schuyler Bailar, spoke about his life as an openly transgender division 1 athlete. He highlighted the supportive responses from his parents and grandparents — particularly his grandmother’s — to coming out.

“I’m here because of every single person who chose to share their common humanity with me and give me strength. I am here because of every single person who has told me that they love me,” Bailar said.

He told the audience what he told his grandmother when he came out.

“I’m just me, just trying to be happy, and I want you to understand and I love you dearly,” he said.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, TEDxJHU Communications Director Ruchit Patel, explained that TEDxJHU tries to select speakers from Hopkins, the Baltimore community, the U.S. and abroad.

“Our team works to have discussions on who to send invitations to, and we work to build a lineup with topics that can spark ideas and conversations,” Patel wrote.

By DIVA PAREKH
Copy Editor

The Hopkins Center for Africana Studies (CAS) partnered with the Iowa State University College of Human Sciences to host a symposium titled “Bound/Unbound: Contemporary Black Marriage in Research, Policy, and Practice” in Station North on March 8 and 9.

The symposium aimed to engage attendees in discussions on the different functions of marriage in contemporary black communities.

Starting in August 2017, Katrjina Bell McDonald, associate professor in CAS and Sociology, partnered with Jessica Marie Johnson, associate professor in CAS and History, and Tera Jordan, assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State, to organize “Bound/Unbound.”

McDonald discussed the importance of bringing conversations about black marriage into public discourse.

“We really hadn’t had a gathering of this sort in the

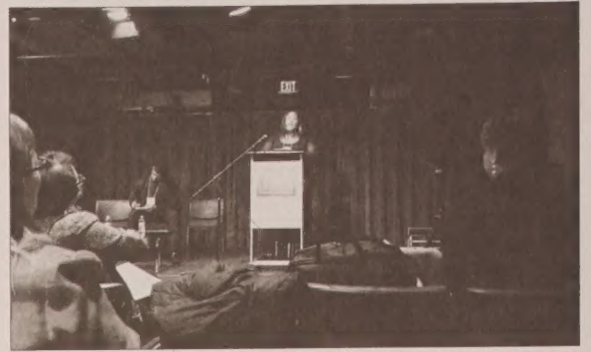
nation that I’m aware of,” she said. “The more general conversations about marriage still have not paid fair enough attention to the uniqueness of black relationships.”

The first day of the symposium consisted of a keynote speech by Director of Research and Program Evaluation at the Young Women’s Christian Association Alicia Sanchez Gill, followed by three panels.

One of the panels, titled “Methods and Data,” focused on research conducted through literature and sociology on the field of black marriage.

Panelist Marlo David, director of African-American Studies at Purdue University, discussed the representation of black mothers in popular media.

“Black writers, filmmakers and other cultural producers are... choosing to write about the single mother,” she said. “They’re rejecting in some ways the neoliberal notion that if we’re not representing blackness positively and aspirationally, that somehow we’re doing



COURTESY OF DIVA PAREKH

Speakers at the symposium ranged from Hopkins professors to activists.

our culture a disservice.”

Another panel, titled “Social Policy,” was composed of four panelists.

Panelist Amber J. Phillips, a reproductive justice advocate, emphasized the need to include black women in conversations about black identity.

“We’re often [told] that we should be quiet and let the race succeed,” she said. “You can’t be pro-black unless you’re pro-black women.”

Phillips highlighted the importance of making the media more accessible for black communities. She called on the audience to use social media platforms

to engage with black people not involved in academia.

Next, panelist Andrew Cherlin, chair of the Sociology department, discussed how meeting families’ basic needs should come before parenting and family skills training.

“Marriage is not the end. It is one way, an important way, but not the only way to achieve the greater goal, which is stable environments for children who have their basic needs met,” he said.

The three sessions on Friday, March 9 included “Developing Op-Ed Pieces Supporting Black Marriage Scholarship and Policy,” “Collaborative Workshop on Developing Course Syllabi on Black Marriage and Relationships” and “Love and Marriage in Slavery’s Archive: A Workshop with Tera W. Hunter.”

The final session was a special roundtable discussion at Red Emma’s featuring a book by Tera Hunter, History and African-American Studies professor at Princeton University, titled *Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century*.

The session featured panelists’ discussions about Hunter’s book.

Panelist Vanessa Holden, associate History professor at the University of Kentucky, brought up the specific challenges that queer marriage, particularly black queer marriage, still faces, expressing concern about legislation that makes it a lot more difficult, though not illegal, for queer couples to marry in certain states.

“Individual judges and county clerks do not have to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The legislation still needs to pass Alabama’s house, but... similar legislation has been proposed in [other states],” she said.

Panelist Katrina Bell McDonald discussed her own family, particularly her grandfather, who had three wives. She said that contrary to the negative connotations that society associated with this, her family felt normal and whole.

Panelist Shani Mott, a lecturer in CAS, addressed the commodification of black marriage and contradicted the idea that the man in a marriage should bring skills or wealth to the marriage, and said that a marriage should simply be a partnership in its own right. Junior Marissa Varnado spoke to the personal impact that “Bound/Unbound” had on her.

“It was a really transformative experience to be around that many academics who study something that’s so specific and so many minority academics that are role models for me,” she said. “To see that many people who are interested in it was heartening.”

Student policy team examines policing

By KATY WILNER
Staff Writer

The Policy Competition Team at Hopkins hosted a discussion about the state of Baltimore policing on Sunday. The organization invited Ganesha Martin, the former head of the Department of Justice Compliance, Accountability and External Affairs Division at the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), to answer questions.

Sophomore and co-founder Kevin Wu said that the Policy Competition Team at Hopkins was recently created to encourage critical thinking about current events and policy issues.

“Policy is everything,” Wu said. “It’s one thing to protest, but that doesn’t do anything until there are changes in policy.”

Sophomore and co-founder Meghna Kumar explained that there were not any existing policy clubs on campus.

“We want to provide [students] with networking opportunities and opportunities to compete,” she said.

The organization felt that bringing in Martin would help students further understand current changes occurring within the police department.

Martin initially served as Mayor Catherine Pugh’s special assistant and later went on to lead the Department of Justice Compliance, Accountability and External Affairs in the wake of the death of Freddie Gray.

“The Department of Justice... goes into a police de-

partment and sees if there is a practice of unconstitutional policing,” she said.

If the Department of Justice finds these practices, a judge puts forth a consent decree, which sets a list of policing reforms that must be put in place within the span of five years.

Some of the guidelines for the Baltimore consent decree included reforms to the community oversight task force and the use of force.

Martin worked to emphasize the idea that the police department needs to change its mentality toward arrests and for officers to recognize their own bias.

“If [officers] are being aggressive towards a person... [they] should question themselves and say ‘Is it my bias or is there something going on here?’” Martin said.

Martin attributed a lack of mental health resources as a significant cause behind police officer aggression. She said that before the consent decree, the only psychological facilities offered were those that determined if a police officer was fit to keep his or her job.

With the new reforms, officers are now offered anonymous therapy, which Martin believes will reduce unnecessary arrests.

She also stated that the basic mentality of the police department must change as well. She said that instead of asking officers how many guns they collected or how many people they arrested, police chiefs should ask community oriented questions.



COURTESY OF KATY WILNER

Ganesha Martin talked about the problems with policing in Baltimore.

NEWS & FEATURES

Harvard professor addresses public school failures



COURTESY OF TIANCHENG LYU
Jal Mehta was hosted by Schoolhouse Talk at the School of Education.

By **TIANCHENG LYU**
Staff Writer

Schoolhouse Talk, a speaker series organized by graduate students at the School of Education, welcomed Jal Mehta, associate professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, for a talk on Wednesday. During the talk, titled “The Elusive Quest for Ambitious Schooling: Limits and Possibilities of the American High School,” Mehta reported on his book-length research on fostering “deeper learning” in American public schools.

For his study, Mehta and his colleague conducted 300 interviews at 27 different public schools across the country, including magnet schools and International Baccalaureate schools.

Mehta also explained his research methods.

“Our method is ethnographic,” he said. “Generally we will go to a school and ask to shadow a student for a day. We will pick students from different tracks and at different parts of the building. By following students around, we try to get a sense of the various distributions of instruction.”

Mehta broke the motivation behind studying “deeper learning” into four changing factors: economy, equity, society and family.

“Previously you could graduate with a degree and get a middle-class job. When asked about the top three skills of [recent graduates], U.S. employers of the 1970s would say, ‘reading, writing and arithmetic.’ But today their answers will be problem finding, collaboration, critical thinking,” he said.

As for the societal rationale, Mehta discussed the importance of civic engagement and critical thinking.

“Young people of today will become voters in elections, trying to discern real news from fake news and making decisions on global poverty and climate change,” he said. “So their ability to reason about those things and see below the surface is at stake.”

Based on Mehta’s surveys, only one out of five classrooms he has visited managed to “learn deeply,” which he further defined as expanding the students’ capacity for creativity and real-world applications instead of mere memorization.

“About 75 percent of fifth graders reported being engaged in school, and by senior year, this number dropped to 35 percent,” he said.

Mehta compared his observations of students’ interactions within a high school English classroom to those of an after-school theater group. Mehta described the typical classroom setting as “the Core” and any type of extracurricular involvement, like the theater group, as “the Periphery.”

According to Mehta, the Periphery is often more vital

than the Core, for the former encourages a more active, deeper learning process. He attributed this phenomenon to the Periphery’s emphasis on community building, interdependent roles and apprenticeship learning.

“If the curriculum of a class focuses on individual production, with the students trying to please the teacher, the hidden curriculum of [theater production] resembles a modern social organization, wherein you have to maintain delicate

negotiations among the actors, the company and the technology crew,” he said.

Despite this discrepancy between the Core and the Periphery, Mehta pointed out some developments that offer hope. First, while schools were more inconsistent than they appeared, there was some ambitious teaching in almost every school. Many disciplinary classes often took on some of the same qualities as electives and extracurriculars, which Mehta has shown to be good platforms for deeper learning.

Mehta recommended that public U.S. high schools create learning environments that value identity, creativity, discipline and feedback. Moreover, he reiterated the significance of “peripheral” spaces and the necessity for core disciplinary teachers to engender similar environments in classrooms.

Erwin Hesse, a doctoral student at the Hopkins

School of Education, felt that the meaning of “deeper learning” could be elaborated on further.

“I agree with most of what [Mehta] was saying,” he said. “But I want to know how to pinpoint when deeper learning has taken place. That’s when we start to know what to measure because one’s perception of deeper learning may not be accurate to the student’s definition.”

Gilda Hogan, an alumna of the University, who has over 30 years of teaching experience, attended Mehta’s talk to learn more on the state of schools today.

“I came to see exactly what was going on the world of education,” she said. “As a former teacher at various levels, I had wonderful experiences and some not so wonderful. I thought that it would be nice to go out and take a look. Today I heard some fantastic questions and great answers, and it’s just a wonderful time to be alive.”

Students gather against gun violence

WALKOUT, FROM A1

“disarm hate” and “enough is enough.” They then gathered in front of the Hopkins sign on North Charles Street. Several passersby honked their car horns in support.

At the end of the walkout, Boutros urged U.S. citizens present to take a more active role in combating gun violence by voting in the 2018 midterm elections.

“We need to call our legislatures, our elected officials. We need to vote,” he said. “Otherwise, all of this would sadly mean nothing.”

He recommended that Hopkins affiliates register on TurboVote, an online voting registration service that has partnered with the University. The service is designed to make voting easier for students and offers absentee ballots.

According to Boutros, a single student group did not organize the event, though he and other Student Government Association (SGA) members were involved. Instead, he brought together Facebook friends whom he thought would be interested into a Messenger group.

“I knew we needed to do something,” he said. “As soon as Parkland happened my heart was broken again. I have a six-year-old sister and to think that she is going to elementary school, to think that this could happen to her... it brought it home.”

Sophomore Caroline West got involved in planning the walkout after a conversation she had with Boutros.

“We wanted to do something big that would engage the campus community and the Baltimore community that would show our solidarity with the victims of Parkland and that quickly grew,” she said.

To spread word of the walkout, organizers created a Facebook event page and distributed emails containing a template letter for students to send their professors. The letter asked professors to excuse students who missed class to participate in the walkout and encouraged them to participate as well.

West was pleased with

the turnout, noting that the walkout was held at a particularly busy time of the year for students.

“We feel there comes a time where it’s necessary for us to put aside academic priorities for a moment and come together and show our solidarity,” she said. “It was awesome that there were a lot of people that felt that way and joined us.”

SGA Executive Vice President AJ Tsang explained that the walkout was intentionally scheduled to take place at the same time as walkouts across the nation. SGA will also be sending a banner to Stoneman Douglas.

Tsang said that organizers of the walkout will also be involved in the March For Our Lives at Washington, D.C. on March 24.

“We wanted to... make sure that we were combining our efforts with that of the national events,” Tsang said.

On Tuesday, SGA unanimously passed a resolution expressing its support for survivors of gun violence and gun control activists. The resolution calls upon the University to support affiliates who wish to engage in future walkouts and to show their support for undergraduate applicants who protest gun violence.

The resolution contains a clause asking that the University “refuse to invest in any campus-safety initiative that would arm JHU affiliates, including faculty, staff, and any affiliate employed by the University security apparatus.”

Tsang clarified that the clause was not written in response to the University pushing for a private police force. Instead, it was writ-

ten after national legislators began calling for teachers to be armed last month.

Sophomore Madeleine Cuan left her shift at the Hopkins Lab for Child Development to participate in the walkout.

“This has to stop, this can’t keep happening, and it’s time that we do something,” Cuan said. “It’s just really great to encourage people to vote and to make a change, and it’s really great to have a group of people that want to demonstrate it.”

Former Senator from Maryland Barbara Mikulski, who has been a professor of public policy at Hopkins since 2017, was among several faculty members who participated in the walkout.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Mikulski explained that she attended the walkout to commemorate the lives of those lost in the Parkland shooting.

“We support the incredible efforts and agenda of the Parkland students and hope to see either part or all of it passed and that their dream to be remembered as the last school shooting in America is realized,” she wrote.

Mikulski commended student activists for being vocal about their support for gun control.

“It is an uphill fight, but these students are leading the way,” she wrote. “We encourage students at Hopkins (and elsewhere) to not only participate in protests and marches — which are fantastic — but to also flood their representatives’ social media, telephones, and inboxes with their thoughts and opinions — both of support and disagreement — so that their voices can be heard.”



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU
The demonstration at Homewood coincided with marches across the U.S.

Database seeks to help students find research

By **JASON NGUYEN**
For *The News-Letter*

Without a centralized method of searching for research opportunities, many Hopkins students rely on word-of-mouth and faculty directories to find research positions at the University.

ForagerOne, an online platform, is designed to streamline and standardize how students look for University-affiliated research opportunities. The platform officially released its beta version to the public in January.

Juniors Ansh Bhammar and Yash Jain created ForagerOne to maximize convenience and productivity when looking for research positions. During their freshman year, Jain and Bhammar were looking for available research positions when they realized how much of a struggle it was.

“We really thought this process needed to change to be more efficient for everyone,” Bhammar said.

Jain added that they wanted to create a more streamlined process for current and future students.

“Many of us came here for research, and the fact that it was so challenging to get involved is a problem that needed to be fixed,” Jain said.

Working with the Hopkins Office for Undergraduate Research (HOUR),

Smith, the team has worked for the last two years to launch the website.

“ForagerOne acts as a comprehensive central hub to link students with faculty members and their websites,” Smith said.

ForagerOne aims to simplify the process of getting in touch with faculty members. After creating a profile on the website, students are prompted to search through the database which contains faculty info and filter through those who they are interested in contacting.

When students are ready to contact a faculty member, ForagerOne provides an application builder where students can fill out their resume info and write a brief statement to the faculty member they want to work with. This application and statement gets sent directly to the faculty’s ForagerOne account and email. If the faculty member does not have a ForagerOne account, then the application is sent to their University email.

If students feel they are not ready to contact a specific faculty member, they can bookmark their profile.

Despite the fact that ForagerOne currently contains over 4,000 faculty members across the University’s divisions, some professors are unaware of the platform and that they are listed on the website. The team hopes to continue reaching out to new faculty members and linking them with their ForagerOne profile. They also plan on conducting interviews with faculty members

to ask them for input on additional features they would like to see incorporated.

Smith explained that once the faculty side of the program is further developed, more faculty members will be aware of ForagerOne. Smith also listed a few ideas that could potentially benefit the platform, like pop-up tutorials to help students navigate the site.

“ForagerOne isn’t going to answer every question. There’s still a lot of legwork that as a student you have to do,” she said.

Making the site more accessible to faculty members will make it easier for them to view student applications and interact with students through the site. Jain asserted this would also make the ForagerOne platform more centralized by keeping communications within the ForagerOne site.

“We’re looking to get rid of email completely from the process,” Jain said. “It makes things more efficient.”

Some professors, like Chuck Bennett, a professor in the Physics and Astronomy department, have not had trouble finding

students to help with research projects. Bennett is currently working on developing the Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS), a microwave telescope.

“The physics students and I don’t feel a need

[for the platform], but I can imagine that it would be useful on a wider scale at the university,” he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Students like freshman Hannah Garcia believe that having a central platform for research opportunities could be useful.

“While it was easy for me to find [a research position], I still had to look across a lot of platforms,” she said.

For students who have already made ForagerOne accounts, like freshman Nicholas Malloy, the simplified process has saved him time and energy.

“ForagerOne makes finding research positions much more streamlined and accessible than it currently is,” he said. “It’s helpful to students who don’t have the time to go through the [current] laborious process of searching for a lab position.”

According to Bhammar, the platform currently has at least 210 users. The team’s initial goal was to have 100 students in its first month.

Kamran Siddiq, ForagerOne’s lead of marketing, said that the feedback the team has received has been largely positive.

“Ninety-one percent of our users actually recommend ForagerOne over the traditional research search process and 100 percent would recommend it their friends,” he said.

Siddiq expects that ForagerOne will eventually expand to other institutions.

“If I look 10 years into the future, I can see ForagerOne at every university in America,” he said.

“If I look 10 years into the future, I can see ForagerOne at every university in America.”

— KAMRAN SIDDIQ, FORAGERONE MARKETING LEAD

Working Women's Day march engages Hopkins

MARCH, FROM A1

diversity of the women and gener nonbinary students who gathered before the March.

Free spoke about her experiences growing up and the complicated exploration of her identity. Her father was white, her mother black and she had a white half sister and two older mixed siblings.

In college, Free said she faced additional obstacles as a black woman. A Materials Science and Engineering major, Free explained that some faculty and staff question her commitment to the major.

"I will continue to stand on the shoulders of those who came before me, who stayed their course and followed their passion," she said.

Free ended her speech by emphasizing the importance of inclusivity.

Freshman Sabrina Epstein, a member of Tzedek, gave a speech about disability rights. She described the many forms that fighting for disabled rights can take, from policy changes to changing the perception of the disabled community.

Epstein encouraged students to go beyond accommodation and to treat those with disabilities with respect. She emphasized that ableism is often experienced alongside other forms of oppression, as the disabled community often includes other marginalized groups such as immigrants and people of color.

"Our liberations are all connected, and disabled liberation cannot be ignored in our fight," Epstein said. According to Epstein, the exploitation of the disabled community has also rendered them voiceless.

"We do not want your pity," Epstein said. "We want healthcare, we want rights and we want dignity."

Epstein was proud of the work that Tzedek and co-sponsoring groups put into organizing the student-led march. She found that the March elevated the voices of women and non-binary people, allowing them to speak about different intersections of groups and the oppression they face.

Following the speeches, Tzedek led demonstrators to the People's Park.

During the mile-long walk from campus, students shouted chants such as "every generation has an obligation for women's liberation" and "say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here."

Demonstrators also chanted "say her name" followed by the names of women who have faced oppression. These names included Sandra Bland, whose arrest and death sparked protest, and Ahed Tamimi, a Palestinian activist who was detained by Israeli authorities in December.

At the People's Park, protesters began the speeches with a solidarity chant. Freshman Isabella Sar-

ria spoke about the oppression she has faced as a Hispanic woman. She also stressed the need to give DREAMers the chance to thrive.

"We can and will be the voices for those that aren't being heard," Sarria said.

Other speakers included a representative from 1199SEIU, a healthcare workers' union, who spoke about the organization's goals to raise the Baltimore minimum wage to \$15. She reported that the majority of minimum wage workers in Maryland were women of color.

A representative from Gabriela USA, a national Filipino militant women's organization, spoke about the difficulties that work-

"We want healthcare, we want rights and we want dignity."

—SABRINA EPSTEIN, FRESHMAN

ing women face and criticized the Trump administration for their support of Filipino president Rodrigo Duterte.

After the speeches in the People's Park, protesters made their way to St. John's United Methodist Church.

Keynote speaker Takiyah Thompson began by explaining the origins of International Working Women's Day. She spoke about the day's radical beginnings, specifically the year-long garment worker strike in 1908.

Thompson stressed that oppression against women is experienced worldwide.

"Intersecting oppressed identities compound the violence that certain women face," she said. "We have to broaden our scope to understand womanhood."

Thompson encouraged the audience to reflect on how they plan to work towards a better future.

"We must reconceptualize our ideas of community, and we must reconceptualize what it means to be free," Thompson said.

Epstein especially liked that Thompson introduced socialism in a non-intimidating manner. Rather than pushing for a radical agenda, Thompson emphasized that beliefs that many already hold, like climate justice and pacifism, are equivalent to socialist beliefs.

"Having people there, who aren't as radical, be exposed to socialism in that way and be told that your beliefs that you already have worked with this political ideology was such a great thing," Epstein said.

For second year graduate student Chalyette Martinez-Martinez, this was her first march. She heard of the March through Teachers and Researchers United (TRU), which advocates for graduate student working conditions.

Martinez-Martinez found the March empowering and said that the diversity of the issues presented was appealing to her.

"These are valid issues that need to be addressed and voiced, and I wanted to become a part of it," Martinez-Martinez said.

Journalists reflect on the Baltimore Beat's closure

By EMILY MCDONALD
For The News-Letter

The *Baltimore Beat*, a free, local alternative weekly newspaper, closed on March 6, just four months after it opened in November 2017. The tweet announcing the closure credited it to insufficient advertising funds.

The *Beat* was founded by Editor-in-Chief Lisa Snowden-McCray, Deputy Editor and Arts Editor Maura Callahan, Associate Publisher Jennifer Marsh, Managing Editor Brandon Soderberg and Publisher Kevin Naff. Snowden-McCray, Callahan, Marsh and Soderberg previously worked at the *Baltimore City Paper*, an alt-weekly publication which closed in November 2017 after running for over 40 years.

Snowden-McCray believes that there is an audience for alternative reporting in Baltimore and discussed the reception of the *Beat* when it first opened in the wake of the closure of the *City Paper*.

"Even when we announced that we were opening — we hadn't published anything — people were so happy," she said.

Although she is unsure of her plans for the future, Snowden-McCray said that it would be possible for a new publication similar to the *Beat* to happen someday.

"Baltimore has so many stories that need to be told," she said.

According to Snowden-McCray, journalism needs to adapt to the current social and political climate in order to remain viable.

"The story we've been telling ourselves about complete impartiality, that doesn't sit for where we are now," she said. "The story needs to be told a different way, and I think that alternative media is usually what does it."

Snowden-McCray explained that when she first began working for a television news outlet in Baltimore, many of her stories were based solely on police reports. She believes that both the *City Paper* and the *Beat* conducted their reporting in different ways and had unique voices.

Snowden-McCray said that the main reason the *Beat* closed was a lack of advertising revenue.

"We have to rethink how we sustain ourselves. Because we started so quickly, I think that it was hard to really think through," she said.

For Snowden-McCray, the most rewarding part of her job was covering local issues.

"The thing that I was most passionate about was helping people uncover the seemingly little things that are happening right here in the city that can have a huge impact on our lives and that we can actually do things about," she said.

She believes that local journalism can continue to make an impact in the City.

"You can look at things in D.C. or on the federal level and feel helpless. But there's literally things that we can affect right here in Baltimore," she said. "There's this part of me that's relentlessly optimistic, even now."

Ethan McLeod, associate editor of the *Baltimore Fishbowl*, an independently-owned, local weekly paper, explained that the *Fishbowl*

started as another source reporting on local issues.

"It had a bit of an edge to it which I think has persisted since then, and when I say 'edge' I mean even just a critical take on the news. The *City Paper* definitely had that for decades and decades. *Fishbowl* jumped in as another voice in the mix," he said.

In a statement to *The Baltimore Sun*, Kevin Naff, publisher of the *Beat*, explained that one reason for their declining ad revenue was high crime rates in Baltimore City and a decrease in visits from people who live in suburban areas of Baltimore County.

McLeod addressed the effect of crime on the closure of the *Beat*.

"That is a scapegoat reason that a lot of people in the City give for shutting down," he said. "It's become a little played-up."

The *Beat* published stories on black and LGBTQ communities in Baltimore. However, according to McLeod, the paper's advertisements were not targeted towards those communities, which may have contributed to its closure.

"In any business plan, you would want your audience to match your revenue source," he said.

McLeod also noted that the *City Paper* closed after *The Baltimore Sun* bought them. *The Sun* cited declining ad revenue as its reason for closing the *City Paper*, but according to McLeod, the *City Paper's* independent, alternative voice, which often contrasted *The Sun's*, may have contributed to its closure.

"Unless you have a very open-minded corporate ownership that recognizes the value of having both voices, they're probably going to see it more as a thorn in their side," he said.

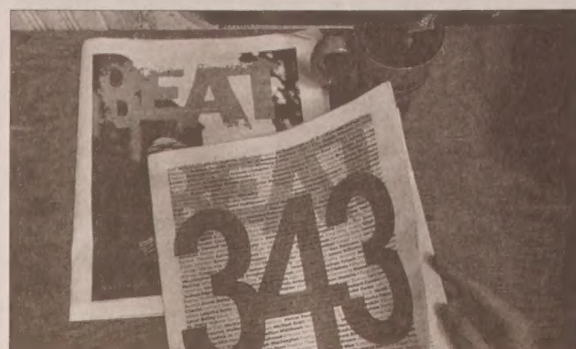
According to McLeod, there are very few alternative news sources in Baltimore. He believes that local news sources should generate trust in their communities, particularly those who feel underrepresented.

"That's what any alt-weekly needs to do to survive," he said.

Brandon Weigel, managing editor of the *Fishbowl*, wrote for the *City Paper* before it closed. He was disappointed by the *Beat's* closure.

According to Weigel, having distinct voices covering local issues is crucial.

"The more media you



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Local journalists are left disappointed by *Baltimore Beat's* closure.

have and the more outlets you have, the more things will be covered, and that's important, especially whether it be holding people accountable or whether it be giving a voice to people who don't normally have that sort of platform," he said.

Weigel also addressed Naff's claim that crime rates impacted the sale of advertisements in the *Beat*.

"It's pretty bogus," he said. "The businesses that are still in the City are supportive of the City."

Like McLeod, Weigel believes that the *Beat* should have targeted underrepresented communities with its advertisements.

"The mission statement of the *Beat*, as I understood it, was to not be concerned with just tourists' business, businesses in the white L," he said.

Weigel believes that it is important that diverse news sources continue to exist in Baltimore.

"The more people we have observing the City and writing about the City and investigating the ways that the City can be screwed up, the better," he said. "You can really help champion things."

Weigel noted that although prospective employment rates for journalists are declining, the demand for news media is still high. Because of this, Weigel believes that in order to remain viable in the future, print publications need to improve the way they do business.

"This has been a problem for years," he said. "There's been no silver bullet solution yet."

The Baltimore Institute for Nonprofit Journalism (BINJ), founded by Baynard Woods, Brandon Soderberg and Marc Steiner, seeks to fund local journalism projects. BINJ was inspired by the Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism and raises funds through IndieGoGo cam-

paigns and social fundraisers.

Woods, co-founder of BINJ and adjunct professor at Hopkins, has written for the Real News Network and the *City Paper*. He explained that the inspiration for BINJ came with the closure of the *City Paper*.

Past projects included funding issues of *True Laurels*, a magazine about the arts in Baltimore City, as well as working with Writers in Baltimore Schools, an organization that teaches creative writing to Baltimore students. Woods noted that funding journalism projects directly was important to him.

"We wanted the money to go directly to funding journalism and not to funding all of the trash that can come with nonprofits," he said.

Woods also addressed Naff's statement on crime in Baltimore.

"That's just a bunch of bullshit, but it does show how he had the wrong idea of what sales should be doing," he said.

Woods also believes that local journalism directly impacts people's daily lives.

"Our local communities are better when we have a really vital news ecosystem that's able to cover a wide range of things, because this is where we actually live," he said.

Woods noted that the way people consume news media has changed with technology. According to Woods, this shift towards free, online content makes it difficult for local and alternative print publications to remain in business.

"As a consumer, this is the best time for news ever. I can still be in my bed in the morning and can have read from 15 different sources before I ever get up with very little effort," he said. "It's a staggeringly bad time to have to try to make a living producing it."

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NEWS & FEATURES

SGA hosts discussion on recently proposed Hopkins police force



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

Administrators answered student's questions at a forum hosted by SGA.

POLICE, FROM A1
 enough best practice to give us confidence that we can stand up a force that will serve our community."

SGA Executive President Noh Mebrahtu said that he personally opposes the formation of a private police force on campus because he worries that he may be racially profiled.

"I've never had a good interaction with police, and I get very scared around them. To know that there are police on campus with guns, I won't feel safe," he said. "I feel that I will always feel threatened and endangered every time I go to class."

Junior Chris Reinhardt, a board member of the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance, said that he was also concerned about violence against LGBTQ students.

He added that, according to a study in 2015 by the Williams Institute, a

think tank at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, 48 percent of anti-LGBTQ hate survivors who report to the police experience police misconduct.

"These same people that are supposed to serve and protect us are the same people who are committing injustices against people who are already experiencing violence and injustice every single day," he said.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Vice President for Communications Susan Ridge wrote that the Hopkins department would police fairly and impartially.

"Racial and ethnic profiling in security and law enforcement at Johns Hopkins or elsewhere is wholly unacceptable," she wrote. "We currently train our [campus safety] officers to understand and support the importance of cultural, racial, religious, and LGBTQ diversity."

She added that the University will look to its peer institutions to determine a process for addressing complaints against officers and will implement training that exceeds state standards.

"Training, too, would follow best practice, and likely include — above and beyond the training that is mandated by the state certification process — additional requirements areas such as conflict management and problem-solving, fair and impartial policing, de-escalation and mental health issues," Ridge wrote.

Twenty-seven students formally spoke at the forum, with all but one voicing opposition to the proposal.

In addition to racial profiling, some students questioned why the University does not invest more in improving mental health or effectively addressing cases of campus sexual assault.

Others sought more information about how the University will build the force and what it will look like in practice.

Hitchcock explained that the force will have jurisdiction over the areas currently patrolled by campus safety officers and added that if the legislation passes, the University would likely work with the City to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BPD.

"This is an enabling legislation that will take a bit of time because there has to be an MOU between either the Mayor or the Police Commissioner and this institution," she said.

In her statement, Ridge explained that the MOU would in part determine the authority of the department.

"Arrest authority for a future Johns Hopkins police department would be subject to the MOU with the City, but we would anticipate having arrest authority within a designated area on and adjacent to our campuses," she wrote.

She added that the proposed department would coordinate with the BPD as the current security services do, but would be subject to the University's own standards.

"Police officers would be employees of Johns Hopkins and subject to all of our policies and procedures and adhere to our core values," she wrote.

"These values include supporting freedom of expression, connecting with and welcoming our neighbors, promoting equity and inclusion, and being transparent and accountable."

Hitchcock added that the University had already been in contact with several community organizations. However some students, like Students for Environmental Action President Kyra Meko, said that the community groups she had spoken with were not aware of the proposal until the University's announcement.

Others, like Freshman Class President Sam Schatmeyer, worried that the proposal would fail to include community voices going forward.

"The reality is that this is a private institution," Schatmeyer said. "That closes the door for any kind of accountability from us, first off, but [also] from people outside of the Homewood community that this type of police force would absolutely affect."

Several students asked how the University would incorporate the input of students and community members. Freshman Class Senator Lauren Paulet asked whether a vote against the proposal would be enough to overturn it.

Kumar said that because the bill had already been introduced in Annapolis, it was unlikely that a vote by students against the initiative would have an effect.

He added that the University decided to back this bill during the current legislative session, which began on Jan. 10 and runs until April 9, because they did not want to wait until next year's session.

Freshman Jason Souvaliotis said that the timing of the decision gives students little time to respond.

According to Kumar, the University worked to make its decision before a deadline to introduce new bills.

"Even though the legislative process goes until April 10, there is a last date on which a new bill can be introduced," he said.

According to the Maryland General Assembly's website, bills can be introduced at any time during the legislative session. How-

ever, any bill introduced after March 6, 2018 would require suspension of the rules by a two-thirds vote.

Recently, a measure was introduced in the Baltimore City Council which, if passed, would require the University to work with the City Council in establishing an MOU. Hitchcock said that the City Council did not oppose the proposal.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Pugh reaffirmed her support for a Hopkins police force.

"It allows us to take our folks and focus them on the streets and in the neighborhoods," she said.

Sophomore Taylor Richter spoke out in support of the proposed police force. He said that he was robbed at gunpoint outside of the University's patrol route and added that he called Hopkins security after 911.

"The y were going to be concerned about me and they were going to take care of me much more than the Baltimore police," he said. "The opportunity for us to build our own police

force is far more valuable than continuing our current relationship that relies so heavily on [BPD]."

According to Kumar, some of the officers will be armed, though he said that they would be careful as to when and where officers were allowed to be armed.

He also said that the University will fund the new force with the money it currently invests in security and will not seek to take investments away from other areas, like improving mental health services.

Senior Class President Kwame Alston, who is also the president of the Black Student Union, said that the financial backing that the University has already put toward this proposal shows him that they intend to go through with it.

He said that there was no point in holding forums because he didn't expect the University to take student feedback into account.

"My opinion won't actually be taken into account when it's in direct opposition to what the University wants to do," Alston said. "All we know is that Hopkins is going to do what it wants to do when it wants to do it."

He added that the University is concerned about its image and hopes to appease parents and attract prospective students.

In an interview with *The News-Letter*, Peter Verheyen, a Hopkins alum and the father of a current sophomore, said that while the University should incorporate input from parents, the parents should trust students to speak for themselves.

"It troubles me when parents expect the University to be armed to the teeth to take care of their kids," Verheyen said. "It's ultimately up to the students to let the University know if there are issues. The University needs to listen to them."

He said that the University should have allowed a greater period for incorporating feedback.

"It was hurried through a little bit," he said. "There needs to be a fair hearing."

Two sexual assaults reported in one week

By ALYSSA WOODEN
 News & Features Editor

Since last Friday, two sexual assaults occurring on or near the Homewood Campus have been reported to the University. A total of seven sexual assaults at Homewood have been reported since the beginning of 2018.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Title IX Coordinator Joy Gaslevic explained that all institutions, including Hopkins, are required to record all reported criminal incidents that occur on campus or in campus security patrol areas. Copies of crime logs for the past 60 days can be found on the Campus Safety and Security website.

Gaslevic described the process through which reports of sexual assault are investigated by the University.

"Once the University receives a report of sexual misconduct, we reach out to the complainant to connect and provide resources," she wrote. "In all cases, we also assess safety and security risks or concerns based on the information we have at the time."

After gathering information, the University implements interim measures, which may include connecting students to counseling, academic or security support. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) works with each complainant to discuss future actions.

Gaslevic stressed the OIE's focus on confidentiality when responding to sexual misconduct.

"OIE remains committed to handling reports of sexual assault with discretion, minimizing the number of individuals who need to be involved in responding to a report, and... providing consideration of the wishes of the complaining party," she wrote.

The University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures, available online, detail the full process of responding to sexual assault.

The two most recent sexual assault reports follow the release of the University's 2018 Anonymous Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct, which seeks to understand student perception of sexual assault, harassment, relationship violence and stalking.

Gaslevic said responses to the survey will inform the University's evaluation of its sexual assault policy.

"We are continually assessing policies, programs, and ongoing education needed to reduce sexual assault," she wrote. "The University will guide its future sexual assault prevention and education plans based on the information received from the survey."

Gaslevic wrote that the University will be collecting student responses to the survey until March 23.

"It's on all of us at Hopkins to work together to make our community the best it can be," she wrote. "OIE looks forward to working with the community to shape future sexual misconduct prevention."

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY ANONYMOUS CLIMATE SURVEY on Sexual Misconduct

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Protesters interrupt FAS talk by former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power



DAVID SAVELIEV/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Samantha Power discussed diplomacy and foreign policy on Tuesday.

POWER, FROM A1
neighbors and community members. All of those forms of identity seem to be melted away, and party identity now looms so much larger."

She noted that staunch partisanship spelled disaster for the U.S., both domestically and abroad.

"These divisions lead to real ramifications in the area of national security," Power said. "Sowing division in this country has always been something our adversaries thought was in their interest, regardless of whether or not it was during elections."

Power believes that the U.S. is in a time of crisis, pointing to Russian interference in the election and U.S. President Donald Trump's hostility towards the press as examples. She stressed that the U.S. needs capable young people to address the nation's problems.

"In our diplomacy, we need not only youth, modernity and energy to be part of our Foreign Service and diplomatic core, but we also need to bring again this spirit of reaching out," Power said.

She urged young people to not be dissuaded by what she described as today's seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Instead, she argued that they should see the value in small, yet equally important, democratic actions they take.

"The question I get from students and from others who are feeling upset about how things are going right now is, 'What can one person do?'" Power said. "For most of us, the change that we make is going to be incremental. But the message I want to leave you with is that there's always something that we can do."

For audience members like freshman Kavya Anjur, Power's message on the importance of small actions resonated.

"As a freshman coming here, I never thought I'd be able to meet people who have had such an important effect on society," Anjur said. "But we don't have to be in high positions of power, like her, to voice our opinions and make changes in the world."

Others, like senior Tim Shieh, enjoyed Power's de-

scriptions of carrying out decisions that she did not necessarily agree with.

"Every decision has many different perspectives on it that are hotly debated," Shieh said. "I thought it was both interesting and vulnerable when Ambassador Power opened up that she didn't personally agree with many of the things she carried out while she was in that position."

In their silent demonstration, SDS members walked to the front of the auditorium displaying banners that read, "Samantha EmPowers Genocide in Yemen" and "It's Still Genocide When U.S. Allies Do It."

Emeline Armitage, co-president of SDS, said she felt motivated to speak out against Power's involvement in the current crisis in Yemen.

Armitage elaborated that Power authorized U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, whose military intervention in Yemen has led to the deaths of thousands of civilians, as well as widespread famine and the displacement of over three million Yemeni citizens.

"We were confronting her about her past actions," she said. "Whether or not she gave any type of answer, it doesn't erase the fact that there are still people dying in Yemen to this day because of her."

Though SDS demonstrators left the event before the Q&A section, Power responded to the group's condemnations, discussing the presence of U.S.-backed

military in Yemen.

"It became very clear that the coalition was basically disastrous for the civilians of Yemen," Power said. "At that point, we made a choice. My view is that we should have pulled the plug. But there was an argument on the other side that asked what would happen when we pulled the plug. Will they keep fighting? Will Saudi Arabia get arms from Russia or somewhere else?"

Though she recognized the extent of Saudi Arabia's war crimes, Power argued that she made attempts to reconcile the situation.

"There was a second phase where we were trying to use our leverage to change

how they targeted things," Power said. "We also used this leverage to let them let goods in. One of the things I did was create an inspection mechanism which allowed goods to actually come into Yemen."

Armitage argued the contrary, citing the continued destruction and starvation in the area. In Yemen, she said, the Gulf Cooperation Council is continuing to blockade food, completely starving the country.

"They continue to bomb civilians and hospitals and places of worship," Armitage said. "Samantha

Power's hands are all over this. During her tenure as ambassador, she supported this, and to this day she has not spoken out against it. These genocidal policies against Yemeni to this day continue with the support of the United States."

She added that though Power articulated her ideals surrounding the conflict, the ambassador has done little to ease the situation.

"What you believe is shown through your actions, not your words," Armitage said. "She can say

"Divisions lead to real ramifications in... national security."

— SAMANTHA POWER, FORMER U.N. AMBASSADOR

anything she wants, but the reality of the situation is that she supported and empowered genocide during her tenure as ambassador. Whatever she says now can't erase that fact unless she actively makes material reparations to reverse her actions, which she hasn't done."

Armitage urged the student body to take a more active role in global affairs. She argued that student participation in democratic action and protests challenges policy-makers who contribute to global conflicts.

In a statement to *The News-Letter*, the organizers of FAS said that they were inspired by Power and commended her engagement with the protesters.

"[Power] discussed how we are in a period of extreme

polarity at this moment, during which activism and initiative are key to improvement," they wrote. "Indeed, Power was happy to engage with the protesters who emerged halfway through her speech. As an organization, we were motivated by Ambassador Power's anecdotes and advice, as well as the increased engagement of Johns Hopkins students and community members."

Graduate student and former FAS member Corey Payne was sympathetic to the protesters. He wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that he was shocked that so many people in the audience were heckling them and responded to criticisms that SDS chose to disrupt the talk rather than ask Power questions about her position on the Yemeni crisis.

"I know there were people complaining because the protesters didn't stay to ask questions," he wrote. "The protesters were respectful and made their point. Frankly, I find it ridiculous that people are more upset that the protesters didn't ask questions than they are that the U.S. government sponsored a genocide in Yemen."

Freshman Kavya Anjur appreciated that the University did not interfere with the protest.

"It was rather abrupt, but again, we have the First Amendment. It's something that you can expect. It shows how active the Hopkins community is in allowing students to express themselves freely," she said.





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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

Being racially profiled while black on campus



Jordan Britton
The Beauty in the BS

I'm sure many of you have been sporting Hopkins attire while off campus somewhere and have been asked about school affiliation by strangers. A few weeks ago, this happened to me. About 15 minutes later, another person asked me the same question, only to recognize me as someone they've seen around.

The thing is, I wasn't wearing any Hopkins gear, and I wasn't off campus. I was sitting with my backpack in the Charles Commons lounge area on the first floor. I also work in the Charles Commons mailroom every day of the week. My face is a very common thing to see around this building. So why would my status as a student (or at least as a person who belongs in a Hopkins-owned building) be questioned?

The people who questioned me were Hopkins security. While I believe they had only the best intentions in mind, what happened to me is what regularly happens to black students at Hopkins. They profiled me as someone who did not belong on this campus, despite the fact that my behavior did not deviate from any campus norms. To be black at Hopkins means to constantly be aware of the fact that you don't look like most of the other people around you. It means to be on guard when interacting with professors and advisors because black students are often underestimated and discouraged from pursuing challenging course loads. It also means to be aware that security and local police are always watching.

A few years ago, a friend (who is also black) and I found ourselves walking on Charles Street near Eddie's sometime after 11 p.m. Even though it was late, the streets were filled with people, primarily students, heading to and from the ongoing frat parties. We ourselves were not participating in any partying that weekend and in fact were sober, unlike other students around us.

While walking up the block back toward the dorms, my friend noticed a police van slowly creeping up the street adjacent to us. It made him nervous. I, on the other hand, remained oblivious. Once it was at the end of the block, standing across from Chipotle, the police van pulled around in front of us, blocking the crosswalk and our path. One officer stepped out and approached us. Our exchange with the officer resulted in him asking if I was old enough to be out past the citywide curfew being enforced then for anyone under 18 years of age. I showed him my driver's license, which proved I was old enough to be outside, and he let us go.

After this encounter, we rushed back to the dorms

and proceeded to tell everyone we knew about what had just happened.

The officer had tailed us for an entire block before getting out just to check if I was old enough to be out past curfew. Other students were walking up and down the street at the time, many visibly intoxicated and most likely underage. Among the other students was a group of (white) girls shouting back and forth at one another across from where we were. None of them looked "older" than I was at the time. Despite all this, the officer was more concerned about my staying out past curfew and felt it necessary to follow us for an entire block.

In the week leading up to that incident, Hopkins had released a security report about a robbery in the area. The suspects were two black men. It did not take long for us — two black men in the same area as the robbery — to put two and two together.

It is highly unlikely that an officer of the law would spend their time following two people unless that officer believed they were up to no good or posed some sort of threat. That night, that officer didn't see two students but rather saw two suspects. His reason for stopping us related strongly to profiling. Considering that he didn't even ask my friend for ID or proof of age, it was clear that even he knew his reason for stopping us had little to do with any curfew.

To this day, I still consider myself lucky. I feel lucky that when I was racially profiled, it didn't end in detainment, arrest, a beating or even death. It is not lost on me how sad it is that my standards for a good interaction with police are so low. But being black at and around Hopkins, like in the rest of America, requires a high tolerance for bullshit.

The pain of growing apart from an old friend



Lily Kairis
Lil Musings

People often focus on breakups as a romantic concern, but friendship breakups can cut just as deeply. Through my 20 years of life, I have bonded deeply with dozens of people. It feels almost like an adrenaline rush — meeting someone and suddenly, miraculously, clicking. You have the same sense of humor. You belt out the same songs at camp karaoke. You both love Broadway musicals and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

This person becomes woven into your life quietly and seamlessly, without the fanfare of a courtship. Then, before you know it, you are finishing each other's sentences and declaring your undying love for each other on a weekly basis. But like anything in this world, friendships cannot last forever. Whether through geographic distance or simply growing apart, I (like everyone) have lost so many friends through the years. It is a bittersweet reality I often ignore. But with the ever-thrumming churn of my brain, occasionally nostalgia pulls me back.

I remember, for instance, the girl I met at writing camp — Tala. My best Hopkins friends will recall this name, because, as a freshman, I used to talk about her all the time. We met the summer before my senior year of high school. I had been accepted to a two-week writing program at the University of Iowa, called "Between the Lines," where 10 students from the United States and 10 students from

Arabic-speaking countries (throughout the Middle East and North Africa) study and write together. It was an utterly transformative, inspiring experience that solidified my love for creative writing and gave me the confidence I needed to pursue it in college. I owe so much of that transformation to Tala.

She was the first friend with whom I felt deeply known, understood and loved. Not to say that my friends before that were inadequate. In large part, Tala and I bonded because of the experience itself. On the third day of camp, students were asked to write a poem about a significant childhood memory.

I wound up far exceeding the recommended 15-line length, filling two pages with raw reflections about my older sister's schizophrenia, filtered through the perspective of a terrified 10-year-old. It was the first time I had written about my sister.

The next day in class, as my hands quivered so erratically, I thought I'd tear the pages, I read it all aloud. Afterward, Tala approached me. "That was so beautiful and so brave," she said. She then asked if she could tell me a story. We went on a walk that was supposed to last ten minutes and ended up extending for three hours into the evening. She told me about her father, who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness only a few months prior and about how unnerving it was to see signs of weakness in the man who had always kept her grounded. As she spoke, I felt my walls of privacy breaking down. Suddenly I wanted to tell this girl everything. We were kindred spirits; I could just tell.

And I was right. That night at karaoke, when we shared a chair and shamelessly belted out "Dancing Queen," that was the final straw. Tala and I became



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Kairis met Tala at a writing camp one summer during high school.

inseparable. Soon we were holding hands on the walk to class, sharing chocolate peanut butter milkshakes, developing a secret handshake and laughing about the most nonsensical things until our stomachs ached.

Two weeks later, when we were forced to say goodbye, both of us sobbed. We promised to stay in touch, but with a 10-hour time difference between her home in Kuwait and mine in Delaware, we both should have expected the difficulty.

Yet we put in a valiant effort. For the first few months after camp, we FaceTimed nearly every week and sent three-paragraph texts with intermittent updates. She ended up visiting the West Coast of the U.S. for the next year's summer vacation, and in a spontaneous burst of enthusiasm, I bought a plane ticket to meet up with her family in Las Vegas.

But of course, I wouldn't be telling this story if everything had worked out. Today Tala and I are no longer the close friends we once were. Our disconnection happened gradually. She started dentistry school in the U.K.; I started at Hopkins; and our lives began to shift far too quickly for either of us to keep track of. The intermittent updates became more spread out and more overwhelming.

We'd text after four months saying, "I don't know how to summarize everything that has happened."

Growing apart is inevitable, but that doesn't make it any easier to stomach. It is a bitter pill: recognizing that someone who once knew every detail of your mundane existence has become nearly a stranger. I remember how painful it was, three years after camp, when Tala messaged me saying I had forgotten her birthday. "I guess we're at that stage now," she said, "It was silly to believe we could be long-distance best friends." Looking back, it sounds insanely melodramatic, but at the time, the dissolution of our friendship felt like a failure.

However, as time moved forward and we both grew to accept the reality of our situation, that long-distance best friendship really is impossible, I also grew to see things from a different perspective. Our friendship did not fail or sever, it just ran its natural course. Naturally, our paths diverged, but that does not make her importance in my life simply disappear. I am too sentimental to let that slide. She will always be the girl who taught me the value of sharing my voice. She will always be an important chapter of my life story, and I trust that to her, I will always be, too.

Why I will not apologize for being a proud Muslim woman



Maha Sarfraz
Guest Columnist

Last Thursday I sat in the Interfaith Center's reading room munching on a Milano. I was taking a break from my banal routine of studying for midterms to participate in the weekly Chai Chats, a discussion group for Islamic women at Hopkins. Chai Chats isn't exactly a forum or even a debate. Mostly, we just sit around and talk animatedly about any given topic pertaining to Islam or to Muslim identity. (We also have snacks — hence the Milano.)

Last week the topic was white feminism. White feminism is the term broadly used to describe feminism centered around the white woman's struggle. White feminism doesn't account

for the nuances in identity, particularly in race, but also in disability or sexuality. As one of my Muslim friends pointed out, white feminism was the feminist telling Muslim women to stop wearing a hijab because, "Don't you want to be free?" It's the feminism that believes the only path toward freedom is the path toward westernization, that in order to reject oppression, immigrants like ourselves should give up parts of our identity and conform. Don't wear the hijab. Wear tighter clothing. Drink a little. Be more American.

At the risk of being a cliché, I might say that white feminism is one branch of a larger tree, a tree that has survived for centuries. As another friend pointed out, white feminism is the continuation and repackaging of the eternal "West versus East" debate. "The debate is so internalized at this point," my friend said. "They don't even realize they're doing it." The debate manifests in questions about how much we love America, seeking answers along the lines of, "I love America, because it gave me a better life, one that I wouldn't have otherwise."

That answer isn't wrong. America did give me a better life, and in all fairness I have been proud of being American. What the question neglects, however, is the context in which the United States became a haven for those seeking a better life.

Would my family have had to move to Maryland if the Indian subcontinent hadn't been colonized; if the partition hadn't divided India and Pakistan and drained their resources? Why is it that the Indian subcontinent, once the most economically advanced region in the world, is now poor and lacks basic resources that the United States and Western Europe use abundantly?

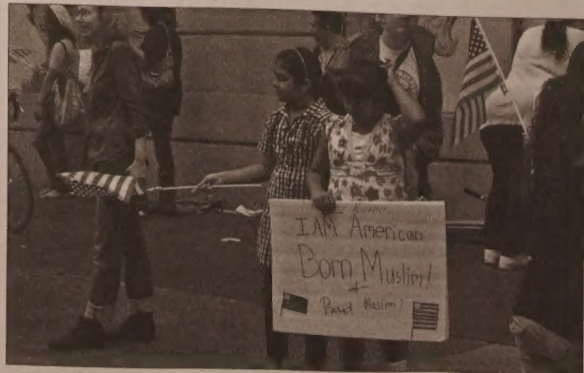
I think the answer to those questions is fairly obvious (hint: It begins with 'c' and ends with independence from Great Britain). But I don't think it's discussed enough. Instead I am expected to smile and stand behind other white women, carrying flags for their independence while neglecting my own history. But my history is not easily erased: It is written in my

skin, my hair and my face. It is forever found in the name my parents gave me, "Maha."

And in the same way that I cannot erase my history, I refuse to walk away from my religion. Every Friday I walk to the IFC to pray with my fellow Muslims. I cover my head with my dupatta, unconcerned about any stares I might get. I prostrate to God, facing the direction of Mecca, and I find peace when I do. There are things that I will apologize for — making a mistake, hurting someone's feelings, being ignorant — but my identity is not one of them. In today's world of white feminism, of Islamo-

phobia, I am unapologetic, in every sense of the word.

When the time comes to march, when the time comes to demand equality and fight against oppression, I will do so not just as a woman or an American but as a Muslim-American woman. I will wave the flag of my identity proudly. I will not march behind any other women but beside them. My hope is that one day that will not be an unusual thing to do, that as the landscape of America continues to change, I will be able to mark out a permanent place for me and for others like me. Until then I am content being the Unapologetic Muslim.



DAVID SHANKBONE/CC BY 2.0

Sarfraz attends Chai Chats, a discussion group among Muslim women.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Women shouldn't fear being argumentative



Willa Grinsfelder
An Engineer's Window

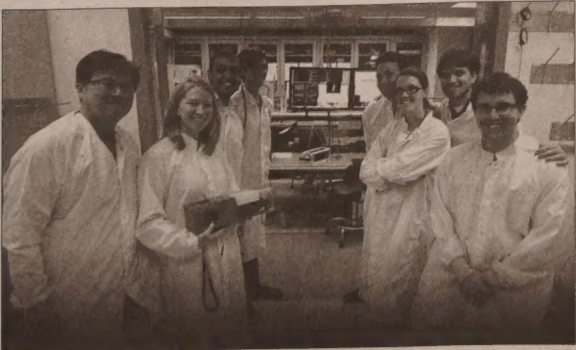
I'm tired of being self-aware. I'm tired of making sure that my opinions aren't offensive. I'm tired of putting myself down when asking questions and giving advice. My questions aren't stupid, and my experiences aren't negligible. I'm tired of waiting for people to explain things that I already know. I'm tired of making sure that the ideas I raise and take ownership of don't sound arrogant. I'm tired of caring about group dynamics and making sure I have all the right "soft skills."

Women are socialized to do the emotional labor of maintaining group harmony. We're supposed to care that every single person in the group feels valued and like they have important things to contribute. We're supposed to have this fabled maternal instinct that leads us to be "moms" in our friend groups, the responsible ones that make sure everyone else is okay. That's the ideal — the mom. But that's total bullshit.

If we're always working so hard to make sure that no one gets hurt, then when will we have the time or energy to dedicate to our own personal growth and development as engineers and as living, breathing human beings? Taking the time every single day, in every single class, to make sure that the group is OK is absurd. It allows more assertive peers to unwittingly walk and talk over us and our ideas. More importantly, it makes us suppress who we are.

I can't speak for every other woman in the field of engineering, but I myself know somewhat well at this point: I love to argue. I love conflict, heated debates and finding holes in arguments. Growing up I was part of a loud family — the kind of family that yelled when we got mad and apologized when we calmed down.

I love my family, our quiet Friday nights watching *Star Trek* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and our loud Sunday mornings when we were supposed to do chores. It felt good to raise my voice. That part of my personality hasn't gone anywhere. I still have the fire that my mom gave me and the cool analytical fascination with how many holes I can find in someone's arguments that my dad gave me.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Grinsfelder doesn't like to work in groups because she is not heard.

I want to be myself at Hopkins. I want to be the one that asks questions and challenges ideas and doesn't stay satisfied knowing just what I'm supposed to know. I want to let loose the assertive personality that I started caging up in middle school when it wasn't okay to have ideas that didn't fit the social hierarchy of life. I hate when people explain things to me without asking. I hate when my peers bash the one female professor we've had so far at Hopkins for teaching the material she was supposed to teach too well.

Part of the reason I want to change all this stuff about myself is because I want to be able to spend energy on the things I actually care about. Another part is because I want to make an atmosphere at Hopkins, specifically in engineering, where sexism gets squished like a bug that's overstayed its welcome.

Up until now, I've hated working on group projects — to be honest I still do. It's not the challenge of a complex task to complete that makes me frustrated but the group dynamics. I hate getting talked over more than anything. Call it arrogance or call it self-confidence, I think that I have good ideas sometimes and that those ideas deserve to be heard out in their fullest.

It's easiest to pursue those ideas when I'm working on my own, and so I tend to stay away from groups. Recently, we started a project in one of my labs, and I had the same problem as usual. I got talked over, my ideas got moved around and I generally got frustrated. And then a friend stepped in and said, "Hey, I liked that idea."

With that simple sentence it felt like I had valid ideas and opinions. I want to do the same. I want to step into a classroom and say: "Hey, that was a really good idea. She put up that really good idea and you all should listen to her."

If we all play to our strengths, we can create a work environment crafted by us for us. We don't have to play into masculine stereotypes to fit into the work place, and we don't all have to fit into feminine stereotypes either.

We have a variety of experiences that have shaped our natures and opinions and ideas. If we can change the workplace to embrace and accept that vast array of humanity, then we can be less exhausted with constant worries about our co-workers. We can finally say, "Fuck it" and love and own the work we're doing to change the world. It just takes shedding the dumb social expectations we all carry on our shoulders first.

Some of the things worth fighting for in life



Zubia Hasan
Trial and Error

Sometimes it's not clear — the way forward. Sometimes it's not there anymore — it's a dark foggish slug, and it just doesn't seem worth it anymore. Sometimes you are so encapsulated in the fog that you lose the big picture — and that happens to me almost every day.

I wish I could be a success story too. One of those billboard declarations of someone who clawed their way back to life, back to normalcy, back to success. I wish that was me, that person who wins the game against all odds, but the reality is I don't even know what the odds are, I don't even know what game it is and I don't even know if I'm playing anymore.

Hope is hard work you know. Everyone talks of hope as if it is some tangible thing dangling in the air, but that's not true. Hope is not there, hope does not come to you. Sometimes you have to run to it and even then it seems out of sight. It's a struggle. It really is a fight.

So why?

Why fight? Why go through the unbearable drudgery that is life?

I have asked everyone — literally everyone — this question. Everyone including my therapist could not answer. Because there is none. Logically, what person, what rational, sane person would choose to fight and to suffer everyday for the next thousand days? Really, no logical person would.

It's a good thing then, that humanity is not grounded in rationality and that things like hope and joy are not grounded in reason. I have thought long and hard about this question and I think this is why I fight:

I fight because trees are beautiful. They are green and lush and big and they form a canopy in the sky like an eternal house. I fight because sometimes when I breathe and look at trees my breath catches in my throat, and I want to cry because they are just so god-damn beautiful.

I fight for when I laugh with my best friends. I throw my head back and my breath comes out in incremental gasps because this giddy happiness bubbles on the inside and laughing is a way for this to escape. I fight because in those moments I learn seconds can last an eternity.

I fight for when I read math textbooks and things make sense. I fight for when I read the examples and the

numbers follow this beautiful logical pattern and things finally make sense. And it does not matter that the world is unstructured and scary because math is structured, and in it I have found a world that is certain and provable.

I fight for poetry. I fight for the moment when I read a certain line and I feel something rise in me. It's inexplicable — words that touch your soul and you feel as if some sort of fundamental truth of your existence has been discovered and printed in ink.

I fight for writing. I fight for the sense of relief I get when something forms in my mind and there is no release except pen and paper and hands. I fight for the swirling images that line up, waiting to be poured into blotches forming words — creating coherence (hopefully) out of something that was not there before.

I fight for Karachi's beach. I fight because it is dirty and disgusting most of the times, but in the morning when the sun touches it, the water glimmers like blue diamonds and the sand is a hot, hot golden.

I fight for kindness. Because I found kindness in people when all hope was lost.

I fight for physics. Because it is the most beautiful description of the world. I fight because forces are beautiful — that they can be represented

on paper is unbelievable. I fight because clichés are real.

I fight because I will heal. (I think.)

I fight because I will make it my life's prerogative to ensure to the best of my ability that no one ever has to experience what I experienced with assault.

I fight because there are some who can't.

I fight because dressing up is fun. I fight because I like seeing what a bronzer can do to my cheekbones.

I fight because... because... I don't know.

I don't want to fight sometimes. If I'm being honest sometimes the pain is too much to bear, and I don't want to fight.

But I'm trying. I'm trying to find the beauty in small things. And there is so much, there is so much that is beautiful. Look around, even as I sit in the fluorescently lit B-level, I see the wood and the tiny dark grains of brown forming curves (perfect hyperbolas!!) in the mustard yellow of the table, and I find that beautiful. My J-Card string is a brilliant blue and there are stripes of a different blue showing up in tiny threads and it's beautiful.

Life is a shit show. But some parts are beautiful. And I think that can be enough. And I hope that can be enough.

The things we carry are heavy. So lighten your load for just a tiny bit.

Batman and Catwoman's communication issues



Catherine Palmer
Catwoman

In a continuation of my last column, this week I will be discussing the evolving relationship between Bruce Wayne (David Mazouz) and Selina Kyle (Camren Bicondova) in season three of *Gotham*.

Now in their mid-teenage years, the future Batman and Catwoman start to act on their feelings for one another. However, as their communication skills continue to lag, underlying issues threaten to tear the duo apart.

To give you a taste of their sometimes hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking exchanges, I've decided to analyze key moments in their relationship through quotes. (Warning: spoilers.)

Bruce: "It's just not a good time."
Selina: "You're a selfish son of a bitch. You know that, right?"

While Selina and Bruce begin season three on good terms, secrecy drives a wedge between them in "Look Into My Eyes" (3x03).

Selina comes to Wayne Manor in tears, worried about her missing friend Ivy, whom Selina last saw fall off a ledge into rapidly flowing water. Bruce listens to her sympathetically and even holds her hand,

but he gets into trouble when Selina asks for help searching for Ivy.

Unbeknownst to Selina, Bruce is hiding a clone of himself, known as Subject 514A, at Wayne Manor. After breaking out from the research lab Indian Hill, 514A breaks into Wayne Manor where he is confronted by a perplexed Bruce and Alfred.

Bruce feels he can't leave 514A alone but refuses to tell Selina about the situation, not wanting to drag her into it. Understandably, Selina believes Bruce simply doesn't want to help her and is especially hurt given all the sacrifices she has made on his behalf.

Bruce: "So you do have feelings for me? I'm confused."
Selina: "Good."

This playful exchange takes place in "Anything for You" (3x05). Bruce runs into Selina at a party and tells her that he has hired Jim Gordon (Ben McKenzie), now a P.I., to look into Ivy's disappearance.

Bruce also confesses that he likes Selina and insists that Selina must see that there's something between them too. Ever resistant, Selina pushes back, telling him that he should "never tell [her] what to do" but then kisses him.

Selina: "This — me and you — it's weird for me."
Bruce: "It's weird for me, too."

Bruce excitedly plans an elaborate first date for himself and Selina in "Red Queen" (3x07). But Selina doesn't show.

Hours later, a hurt and angry Bruce confronts her

when she finally arrives, unapologetic.

In a rare moment of openness, Selina admits that she is feeling anxiety over their relationship. In doing so, though, she actually helps improve it. Knowing that they are on the same page, the two only grow closer.

Selina: "You and her — you both lied to me."
Bruce: "But for very different reasons."

Selina is wary when her mother Maria (Ivana Milicevic), who abandoned her as a toddler, suddenly waltzes back into Gotham, hoping to reconnect. However, with Bruce's encouragement, she soon begins to bond with her.

When Maria claims to need money to get out a bad situation, though, Bruce realizes why she really came back. Not wanting Selina to be abandoned again, Bruce plays along and gives her the money, hoping she'll stay.

However, in "Smile Like You Mean It" (3x13), Selina realizes its a shakedown just in time to catch her mother preparing to skip town. Maria admits that the only reason she returned was to exploit her daughter's relationship with a billionaire.

Feeling betrayed by the one person she had allowed herself to rely on, Selina physically attacks Bruce. She yells at him to hit her back instead of merely deflecting her blows, but he refuses. Selina storms out in tears.

Selina: "That's the difference between you and Bruce Wayne. He would try and save everyone."

After avoiding Bruce for weeks, Selina agrees to speak with him at her crash pad in "The Primal Riddle" (3x17). But soon she realizes it's actually 514A, who warns her that something terrible is about to happen in Gotham.

Selina immediately demands to know where Bruce is, and 514A admits that he's been captured but refuses to say more. Having developed feelings for Selina after an earlier mistaken-identity encounter, 514A begs her to leave the city and save herself.

Selina spurns him and tries to tell Alfred (Sean Pertwee) what's going on, but 514A pushes her out of a three-story window to keep her quiet.

Bruce: "You sure as hell don't care about me. I know you better than that."

Selina: "Yeah, I thought you did."

In "Heavydirtysoul" (3x22), Bruce is reeling after having stabbed Alfred under duress. The mysterious Ra's al Ghul (Alexander Siddig) claimed he could train Bruce to become a warrior if Bruce fulfilled his destiny by killing "his past."

After realizing in horror what he's done, Bruce rushes Alfred to the hospital. Selina, fully recovered, shows up in the hopes of comforting Bruce. But, still hurt that Selina stopped speaking to him after the Maria incident, Bruce brutally rebuffs her.

Gotham is currently airing the back half of season four. I will discuss where Bruce and Selina stand now in my next column.

the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Hopkins first needs to ask:
“Should the University even have a
police force?”

On Monday, March 5 the University announced its intent to create a private police force. In the following week and a half, students created a petition against the proposal that has since garnered thousands of signatures; protested in front of University President Ronald J. Daniels’ home for the first time in recent memory; led phone banking efforts to voice their discontent to Maryland legislators; and expressed their concerns at forums both at Homewood and at the Medical Campus.

These events reflect the shock and confusion felt by the student body and the greater Baltimore community. Even Baltimore City Council members were surprised by the University’s announcement, and on Monday evening, the Council adopted a resolution which would require that Hopkins consult them in creating a private police force.

At an SGA forum on Tuesday night, administrators dodged questions about to what extent they informed local neighborhood associations about the University’s plan. Because the proposed police force would likely patrol adjoining neighborhoods, it is crucial that community organizations are a part of this conversation.

On the same day that Hopkins made their initial announcement, Maryland lawmakers introduced a bill to the legislature that would give Hopkins the right to create this force. At the SGA forum, administrators said that they are acting on this issue now in order to submit the bill for the upcoming session rather than wait another year. This year’s legislative session ends on April 9th, less than a month away.

Given the vigor of the protests and backlash as well as the unsatisfying answers the school has provided about what this police force would look like, why not take the proper time to clearly communicate the school’s plan to its students and community? Based on how administrators responded to student’s questions on Tuesday, we are not convinced that the school has a clear plan.

We understand that there are parents, students and community members who support this initiative. However, in just the past week, there has been enough skepticism about this proposal that we question why the school is asking, “What do we want this police force to look like?” when it should be asking, “Do we even want a police force?”

The introduction of a private police force may fundamentally change the University’s interactions with its surrounding communities as well as its role in Baltimore. The incorrect implementation of such a force could lead to fatal consequences. The University’s push for this change on such a short timeline rushes and stifles the important conversations that have been happening around campus for the past week.

It is frustrating to us that the University insists on moving forward, without properly considering whether students and citizens support such a force to begin with. We hope that in the coming weeks, as students continue to raise their concerns, that the University will take a step back and ask its community: “Should Hopkins even have a private police force?”

We cannot take local journalism
for granted

Last Tuesday the *Baltimore Beat*, an alternative weekly newspaper which helped fill the void left by the *City Paper*, announced it was going out of print after only four months of publication.

The *Beat* shined a spotlight on the everyday efforts and accomplishments of Baltimore citizens, everything from local youth arts programs to the Ceasefire Movement. We are saddened to see another valued outlet for local journalism close, especially after such a short time in print.

Local journalism tells the stories of people who might not get a voice in larger publications. It discusses events that affect the community on a personal level. These publications often take the initiative to critically examine citywide trends like neighborhood gentrification and police brutality. But beyond that, they elevate the voices that are frequently unheard, whether they are transgender sex workers or the many lives lost to gun violence.

At a time when local publications across the nation are facing increasing financial pressures, it’s more important than ever to pay attention to these local outlets. We are in a city that is grappling with how it is telling its own story.

National outlets often seem enamored with scenes of crime, corruption and dismay in our city. Mayor Catherine Pugh seems to solely glamorize her office’s efforts and sees local journalists in an adversarial light, saying that the city has a “media problem.”

The story of Baltimore is a lot more nuanced than how it is portrayed by the Mayor’s Office and outside news networks. Local journalists are here to uncover the truth, whether ugly or beautiful, with the hopes that informed readers will strive to make our City better.

Especially in a time when we are confronting complex stories like the University’s proposal for a private police force or Baltimore high school students walking out of school calling for gun legislation, we need our local journalists more than ever.

We urge our readers to critically think about the effort and time that goes into the articles that we read. Recent initiatives like the creation of the Baltimore Institute for Nonprofit Journalism offer hope that there are those who still value independent, accurate and critical reporting.

The role of these local publications is more crucial than ever in continuing to tell the stories of our city.

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The *News-Letter* encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. The *Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 400 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author’s name. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week’s issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnews-letter.com (with “Letter to the editor” in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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the johns hopkins

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BIT training must consider sexual assault survivors

By DIVA PAREKH

I'll start with a disclaimer: This article is going to discuss my experience with the Bystander Intervention Training (BIT) program during my freshman year. The program may have changed or evolved since my experience. I'm not criticizing the way it works today, but what happened during my BIT session was not okay.

Hear me out. I am a victim of childhood sexual assault. So I tried to delay BIT as much as I possibly could. With the threat of not being able to register for classes my sophomore year looming, I grudgingly signed up for a BIT session. You might ask: Why did I do it? I could have emailed them and said I wasn't feeling up to it, right?

I just wasn't ready during freshman year to acknowledge in an email to a stranger that something had happened to me in the past that warranted me being able to miss my BIT session.

So I went. After all, it was a program designed to fight the culture that furthered sexual misconduct on college campuses, so it couldn't hurt me that much, could it?

At the beginning of each session, they said that if you for any reason need to step out, you can, and that's okay. But listening to that I knew that no matter how bad it

got, no matter how much something was affecting me, knowing myself there was no way I'd have the courage to get up and leave the room.

Just thinking about the possibility of leaving the room I could almost feel the ghost of 20 pairs of eyes on me, following me as I walked out the door. I could feel the pain of knowing that 20 people would know that something had happened to me. And I was terrified of making myself vulnerable like that.

So I decided to tough it out. At some point during the second session, they handed out a piece of paper to each of us that we were supposed to tear into four pieces.

For the first piece, we were supposed to write down an activity we loved doing, that we couldn't live without; that gave us joy. I just wrote "reading."

For the second, we were supposed to write down a place where we felt absolutely and completely safe.

And I froze. With my pen hovering over the paper, I struggled with myself to keep the tears from falling. You see, it happened at my home. I looked around, saw that most people were writing "my house" or "home," and I tried to just copy them and do the same thing, but my hand was too shaky.

He had been to my home multiple times a week for five years. He had been in my bedroom. I couldn't even lie and write down "home."

So I left it blank, all the while paranoid that someone would turn their head and see that I couldn't bring myself to write anything on that second piece of paper.

Third: Write down the name of the person in the world you trust more than anyone else; someone you could tell anything to. I wrote the name of the first person I ever told about what had happened: my friend who had held my hand and told me it wasn't my fault and convinced me to talk to my therapist about it.

Fourth: Write down your deepest darkest secret that you wouldn't

want anyone else to know. I couldn't even bring myself to picture what had happened in my head, let alone write it on a piece of paper.

I had left two of the four pieces of paper blank, and I was sitting there hoping with everything I had that no one would notice, and I still didn't know what this activity was leading up to.

They told us to crumple up the first piece of paper. They said that once you go through something like this, even the activities you love doing lose their meaning.

They told us to crumple up the second piece of paper. They said that once you go through something like this, you stop feeling safe, sometimes even in your own home — like I didn't already know that. So I crumpled up a blank piece of paper.

We crumpled the third. They said that experiences like this can damage your relationship with your friends, your parents, your partner, the people you love and trust most. So I crumpled up the name of the first person I had ever trusted with my story.

And then we didn't crumple the fourth. I was waiting for that. I was waiting to crumple up the piece of paper that was supposed to contain that secret, and we didn't. They said that when something like that happens to you, sometimes that experience, that secret, is all that's left.

They said that we could un-crumple the rest of the pieces of paper, but they'd never be the same. They said if something like that happened to someone, they'd never be the same. They'd always be marked by it. There would always be a hole.

The thing is, I understand where they were coming from. They were looking at BIT as a preventative measure. They thought maybe they could discourage someone in the room who was a potential perpetrator. They thought they could encourage someone in the room to intervene if they saw something.

But they didn't think of the other type of person in the room: the survivor. I was there too — not the perpetrator, not the bystander, but the victim. And they said it themselves: One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old.

Why didn't they consider that in a room of over 20 people, at least one of them might fall into that third category? In their fight to stop sexual violence from happening at Hopkins, why didn't they care that it had already happened to me a decade before I ever set foot on this campus?

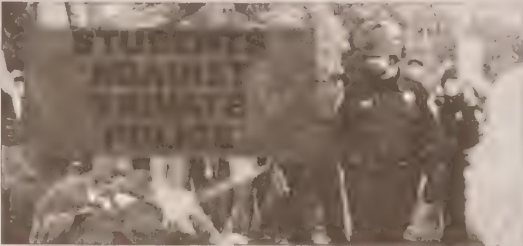
When I got home, I was lying in my bed as I told my roommate about it. She went to my backpack, took those pieces of paper out, threw them in the trash and then took out the trash.

But I still think about them. I still think about that second piece of paper I left blank because I don't know if there's a place where I can feel perfectly safe. I hear the words "there will always be a hole." There will always be a void. Every single time I fight those memories, I fight those nightmares, and I fight to go to sleep, I hear those words and I'm terrified that I'm fighting a losing battle.

Again, things may have changed. BIT may not work this way today. But I wish it hadn't worked that way with me.

Diva Parekh is a junior Physics major from Mumbai, India. She is the Copy Editor of The News-Letter.

A Hopkins private police force is not the answer



COURTESY OF LOUIS MACABITAS
This image from UC Davis shows the potential dangers of a private police force.

By STEPHANIE SAXTON

A protest on campus hosted by Students Against Private Police advertised with a now-famous picture of the University of California (UC), Davis police pepper-spraying peaceful protestors. In her book *Campus Sex, Campus Security*, Jennifer Doyle writes about the above incident of brutality. As she explains, the UC Chancellor said, "We were worried about non-affiliates... we were worried about having very young [university] girls and other students with older people who come from the outside." The Chancellor feared black men from Oakland coming on campus and assaulting the University's women. The fear of sexual assault comes from a racist national mythology of the black male rapist — not feminism. The University sees women as liabilities, not autonomous beings. Sexual assault is mostly student-on-student and vastly under-reported by both victims and the University in crime statistics. Crime data is skewed towards robbery and theft — misrepresenting those from the "outside."

Hopkins President Ronald Daniels echoed the UC Chancellor in his email about forming a Hopkins police force. Police are necessary, according to President Daniels, "given the challenges of urban crime here in Baltimore and the threat of active shooters in educational and health care settings." He signals, as the UC Chancellor did, that the police are meant to put a wall between black residents (urban crime) and students. Affiliates in the learning fortress don't

commit crimes, right President Daniels?

He evokes the Parkland high school shooting in arguing for the private police — despite the fact that Parkland occurred even with armed guards in place. Research has shown that a police presence leads to an escalation of issues, rather than a reconciliation. If President Daniels wants to reduce the likelihood of a shooting, it's largely not advised to introduce a squadron of weaponry to the campus. We must ask ourselves, and the school, if private police will impact this crime.

Quinn Lester, a Hopkins graduate student studying policing, said in an interview that "there is little scholarly consensus that more police equals an increase in safety. Just looking at Baltimore City, the BPD have a notoriously low clearance rate, and there is little reason to believe a Hopkins police force would be different."

Not only are private police ineffective, they are injurious. A neighboring college, Morgan State University, has a police force that participated in the beating and murder of Baltimore resident Tyrone West. He was a non-affiliate, killed by private forces one mile from Morgan, that were not accountable to him. Another model department for the Hopkins police force, the University of Chicago, has been criticized for its racial profiling. An article in the *Chicago Reporter* says, "African-Americans make up approximately 59 percent of the population in UCPD's [University of Chicago Police Department] patrol area but 93 percent of UCPD's investigatory stops." Black residents of the neighborhood near campus are stopped so often, the officers know the residents' names. University police disproportionately stop, harass and even kill black residents in their own neighborhoods.

But, being university police forces, the departments are not bound by the Freedom of Information Act. As

Lester said, "there would be little recourse at all for learning about what exactly a Hopkins police force would be doing to whom." The police forces aren't obligated to disclose data. Further, whereas residents vote for city council members who control city police leadership, neighboring residents would not have any voice in the introduction of an armed Hopkins force. They would have no participatory voice in the Hopkins patrol and would feel a larger wedge between their community and Hopkins.

In her book, Doyle also tells the story of UC Los Angeles student Mostafa Tabatabaiejad who was tasered while at the library after refusing to produce government ID (which was not required in order to be there). The stories of brutality go on and on. President Daniels tells us they are "establishing a university police department, specifically trained to meet the unique needs of a university environment." What about a university environment necessitates my black and brown peers be tasered, my neighbors detained?

Small infractions become moments of brutality; the library becomes a site for assault. A woman is a body waiting to be trespassed — or better yet, a redacted name in a file, a corpus of liability. Black students are not students but possible non-affiliates, possibly suspects. We are customers going into debt while the University finds funds for police. Why do we need armed guards in watch-towers around our learning fortress in order to read Milton next to paintings of slave-owners?

As Doyle said, "The walls dreamed up by University administrators and their consultants had the aspect of the madness that was the engine of the problem."

Private police forces are an attempt to solve robbery, sexual assault and gun violence, using the logic of those crimes. We need a radical love for the impoverished, women, trans folk and Black Baltimoreans — not another wedge.

Stephanie Saxton is a senior Political Science and English major from Clarksburg, N.J.

Baltimore's labor force must stand up to Hopkins

By JOHN HUGHES

For the majority of the 20th century, Hopkins was not the primary economic engine of Baltimore City. That title belonged to a massive steel mill whose workers were part of a strong union, operating out of Sparrows Point in southeast Baltimore — Bethlehem Steel's Baltimore plant. Up until its decline in the '70s and '80s, the mill was the crown jewel of an industrial Baltimore, perfectly positioned in a major port and railroad hub in the middle of the eastern shore.

The substantial wages earned by its workers were spent and saved, growing the economy and producing much of the generational wealth held by the (predominantly white) children and grandchildren of these workers living in the City and surrounding suburbs today. I am among these beneficiaries; my grandfather worked at the mill, and while a steelworker's savings and pension will not make his family rich, they will make it financially stable and able to weather emergencies, stable enough for his grandchildren to attend well-maintained public schools without needing to get their own side jobs, to devote their time to the studying needed to get into schools like Hopkins. If the era of Bethlehem Steel had not also been the era of segregation and redlining, had these benefits been shared with all of the City's working class, Baltimore would look very different today.

As this money grew the economy,

it was taxed and grew city infrastructure. Bethlehem Steel workers lived in Baltimore City, and paid city income and sales taxes. The mill also paid property tax on its port-adjacent land and tax on the sale of steel.

But Bethlehem Steel no longer exists; Hopkins is now the City's economic engine. The number one and number two private employers in Baltimore City are Hopkins and Hopkins Medical Institutions, with a combined 34,000 employees. (At its peak, Bethlehem employed 30,000 in Baltimore.) We're doing a damn terrible job at running Baltimore's economy. Because we're not trying to — we're trying to run the Hopkins economy, while ignoring Baltimore.

Hopkins is rapidly approaching being a \$10 billion industry all on its own; in 2015, our net assets were \$9.020 billion, while our net liabilities were \$5.615 billion. In the same year we owned over a third of a billion dollars in real estate alone.

But the City can no longer tax most of this money. It can't collect taxes on the property because we're nonprofit, nor can it collect on our principal revenue streams: untaxed tuition, research grants and medical billing, plus federally/state taxed capital gains. All that remains is income and sales tax. But Hopkins employees making enough to pay income tax overwhelmingly live in Baltimore County, which receives their income tax and most of their sales tax. (The division of County and City is a unique arrangement, one shared by almost no other American city. It is, unsurprisingly, a product of segrega-

tion, which it continues to reinforce.)

Most of the employees living in the City aren't making enough to pay income tax, nor are they making enough to pay rent and buy food. When Hopkins Hospital workers unsuccessfully struck for \$15 an hour in 2014, 70 percent of the workers qualified for food stamps and 25 percent had incomes below the poverty line, assuming typical family arrangements. We pay our employees so little that they must take from the City's welfare pot in order to survive.

Once, Baltimore's economic engine paid taxes, plus high wages and substantial benefits, feeding into the infrastructure that this economy ran on. Now that Hopkins has taken over, Baltimore's economic engine subsidizes its workers' poverty wages with other people's taxes. Meanwhile, our white collar employees reap the benefits of this arrangement and pump them into the County, old money neighborhoods like Hampden and Roland Park, or gentrifying neighborhoods like Remington and Federal Hill.

This cannot continue. Unless labor stands up to extract wealth-growing wages from Hopkins and unless the City gets its priorities straight and demands state legislation allowing it to tax Hopkins' revenue, land and wages, Baltimore will fall into ruin as it is pillaged by the University, and every claim by Hopkins to be giving back to Baltimore will be nonsense.

John Hughes is a senior BS/MS student in Electrical Engineering from Baltimore, Md.

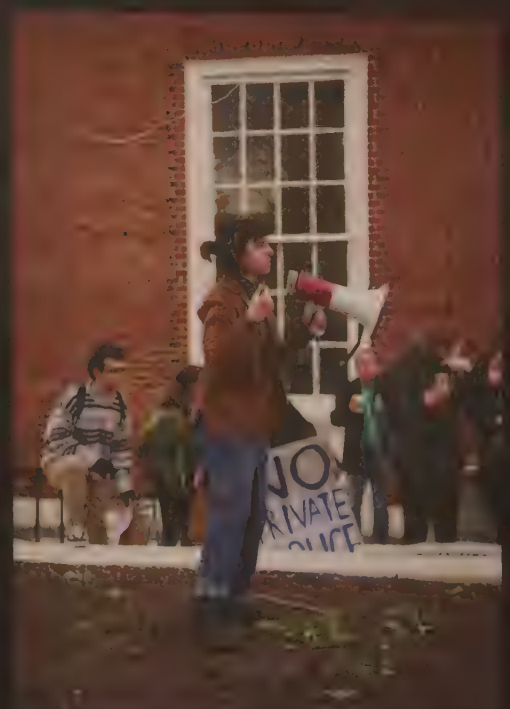
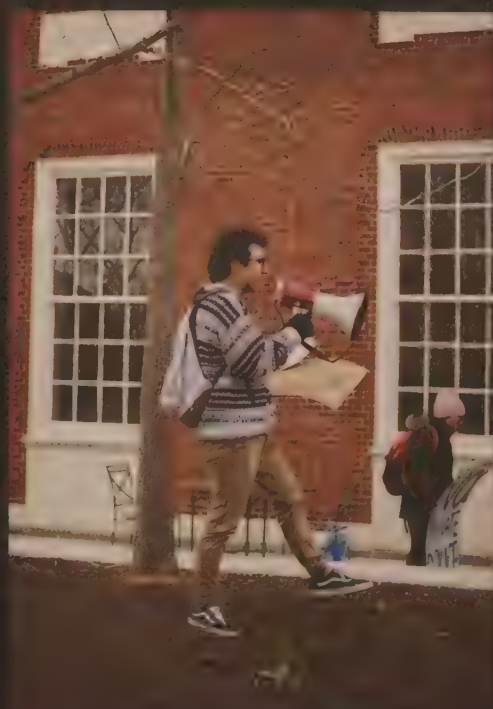
PHOTO ESSAY



Students Take a Stand

The fight against gun violence and the backlash against private police.

By Rollin Hu & Lauren Questell



THE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

MARCH 15, 2018

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Local restaurant foraged. is the ideal brunch cuisine — B5

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Track and Field compete in Birmingham for the NCAAs — B10

Sportpinion: It's important for athletes to address mental health — B11

M. Lacrosse wins against Syracuse University Orange — B12

YOUR WEEKEND MARCH 15 – 18

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Barista vs. Bartender

Ceremony Coffee Roasters

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Kick off Coffee Fest at Ceremony Coffee Roasters' Harbor Point location. Local bartenders and baristas compete to make the best coffee cocktail. Sales will help support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. \$10.

Friday

March Madness Kickoff

The Chasseur

12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Catch some of the first round of NCAA college basketball March Madness. There will be a special Happy Hour menu for food and drink. No cover.

Gaze Into The Abyss

Tectonic Space

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Head over to this "divination night," where participants can explore art, along with engaging in some tea drinking and tea leaf reading. While you're there, check out original tarot illustrations by artist Jabari Weathers. No cover.

Saturday

Walking Group in Locust Point

Charm City Run

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

The first of weekly walking groups through April 21. Join a fun group of walking and running enthusiasts to explore the south Baltimore community of Locust Point. All paces welcome. Free.

Two Brews and a Lie

Ceremony Coffee Roasters

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

If you didn't get your fill of Coffee Fest on Thursday, head over to Ceremony Coffee Roasters' Mount Vernon location to watch dedicated competitors identify the odd cup out in round after round of coffee. Free, with free pizza.

Sunday

108 Sun Salutations for Spring Equinox

Yoga with Elyza and Movement Lab

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate the spring equinox by doing 108 sun salutations with other yogis. Plant the seeds for a successful rest of your year. \$15.

Beyond green beer: A St. Patrick's Day guide

By RENEE SCAVONE
Your Weekend Editor

St. Patrick's Day has to be in my top three technically religious holidays, potentially top two if it's February and I'm single.

So I present to you my guide to getting the most out of my favorite green-tinted American Bacchanal this Saturday in Baltimore.

Morning

Nothing leaves me quite so convinced of the ingraining of alcoholism in American culture like the fact that we've normalized drinking before the sun is up.

However, if you're just itching to get that 7 a.m. pint of Guinness, you can head over to The Point in Fells, where there'll be drink specials until 2 p.m.

Starting out early downtown means Ubering, but thanks to the Luck of the Irish and gentrification, there are plenty of bars to hop around until the Charm City Circulator starts running at 9 a.m.

(Though you may want to stick around for Bottomless Brunch at 10 a.m.)

Afternoon

While you're in the neighborhood, head to the James Joyce Irish Pub, where you can actually enjoy some Irish culture.

Because, no, leprechaun costumes and green beer do not count.

Alongside Irish food and drink specials, there'll be live music, Irish dancers and bagpipers: a total

sensory experience.

Once you've paid even the slightest bit of homage to the holiday's country of origin, feel free to go back to shenanigans at Parts & Labor in Remington.

Beers are \$0.25 at 11 a.m., and the prices double every hour. The event doesn't specify which beers, though, so be careful: It ought to be illegal to drink Natty Boh on March 17.

Either way, it's a novel chance to pay for alcohol with loose change.

Another important note: \$5 neighborhood shuttles will be running from Parts & Labor. I can't write a St. Patrick's Day article without a reminder to drink responsibly.

Evening

Luckily, you may not even need to use a \$5 shuttle: Just hop onto the JHMI to go and grab dinner at the Mount Vernon Marketplace starting at 5 p.m.

Most of the deals on food are on Reuben sandwiches, but the market will surely make up for that in drink specials and colorful clientele.

While I encourage you to eat as much as possible on this day you've got to save some room for Ma Petite Shoe in Hampden.

Everyone's favorite chocolate/shoe store crossover will be offering chocolate samples and adult refreshments from 5 to 8 p.m. There's also a super sale going on, which I am sure will seem like

a super great idea in the moment.

If you're trying for a more authentic dinner, Gertrude's is hosting a meal that seems pretty legit. However, they didn't include pricing info in their event, and I've found that if you have to ask, you usually can't afford it, so good luck with that.

The event that I am most excited for is *A Serious Exploration of St. Patrick Using Comedy*, a free event hosted by the Baltimore Improv Group.

I love history, and I love comedy. Though the promised amount of audience interaction ("lots") makes my introverted self a little nervous, I have totally structured my day around this, and I entreat you to do the same.

Night

Nothing gold can stay, though, and by nothing I mean a commitment to wholesome entertainment on a day when I should technically be at church.

There are dozens of nightclubs in this city boasting Shamrock Shots and knockoff Mardi Gras beads (looking at you, Power Plant), but here are my top picks:

Mick O'Shea's in Mount Vernon, aka my St. Patrick's Day destination for the past three years (and also just a great place to go in general): It's very loud, and I am almost always the youngest one there, but it's actually excellent.

Mahaffey's Pub in Highlandtown: It's a trek, and it physically pains me that they call it St. Patty's Day (Paddy, people!) but they're serving breakfast until the kitchen closes, and they have no cover.

I'll also give a shout out to the lady-centric party at The Attic at FLAVOR, where you can get a free jello shot for wearing green. It's going to be a rough day for your bank account, so you might as well take free liquor if you can.

Bonus: Afterparties

And by that, I mean fun activities for your Sunday.

What's worth waking up before 11 a.m. on the day after St. Patrick's Day? St. Pitties Day.

This B'More Dog parade of pups will leave from Rash Field and is sure to cleanse your spirit of any negative energy.

If you prefer stranger pets, you can also check out St. Patrick's Snakes at 1 p.m. at Lake Roland. The event is both a nod to the fact that St. Patrick allegedly banished all the snakes from Ireland and a great time to check out some slithery pals.

For the rest of you ruffians, head over to Southern Provisions in Canton for their bottomless, surely hangover-elongating bender brunch.

However you celebrate, drink water, be kind to your fellow Baltimoreans, and Erin go Bragh.

My journey to the ultimate destination: D.C.'s Wawa

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

My family has never put much stock in planning out trips. We almost always arrive at our destination barely in time to eat dinner, despite agreeing the night before to arrive at lunchtime. We also like relaxing, so we never create full daily agendas. We just wake up and see where the days take us.

Following that trend, when my dad came to visit me last weekend, we planned a day trip to Washington, D.C. with only one goal in mind: to go to the new Wawa.

Yes, you read that correctly.

In Philadelphia, Wawa is not a convenience store. It's a lifestyle. Wawa is the place my teammates and I would go to after school, dreading the start of swim practice. It's the place my family and I stop at on our way home from anywhere just because. It's the first place I drove to after I got my driver's license.

I know what many of you are probably thinking: First, this girl sounds pretty weird. That is accurate.

Second, isn't Wawa just 7/11? No, and that's offensive.

I certainly have sentimental ties to Wawa, but it's also objectively on a totally different level.

Wawa has made-to-order breakfast bowls and sandwiches, hoagies, paninis, quesadillas, flatbreads and soups, as well as a variety of hot, iced and frozen drinks.

They also have Wawa brand ice teas, lemonades, cookies and soft pretzels, in addition to every other brand of iced tea, juice, soda, chips and candy you could possibly hope for. Pretty great, right?

In pursuit of such amazingness, my dad had agreed to catch an 8:45 a.m. MARC train in order to avoid D.C. traffic. Naturally, we ended up leaving at 9:30 a.m. by car instead.

We arrived in D.C. at 10:30 a.m., and a mere two hours later, we arrived at our destination. I had assumed we would just park and walk around until lunchtime and then go to Wawa. But we drove into just the right section of D.C. to be trapped by a marathon.

In the end, we could have driven to a Wawa in Philly in less time, but the complication made finally arriving at the new D.C. Wawa all the more exciting. I still wanted to rep Philly, though, so clad in my Eagles jersey, I ordered a chicken cheesesteak without cheese, because I don't really like cheese on sandwiches.

(We already established that I'm weird, remember?)

Anyway, after my dad and I had a sit-down lunch — most Wawas don't have seating areas, so that's all the more reason to go to the D.C. one — we decided to walk to the National Mall. Our first stop was the White House, which in person was less impressive than what I was expecting, though I was surprised by how close we were able to get.

The Capitol Building, on the other hand, looked even cooler up close. After theorizing to my dad that the best way to get past security would be to use a grappling hook to scale a wall shielded from view by trees, I suggested we hit up the National Museum of Natural History before heading back to Baltimore.

As we were walking, the sidewalk was blocked off by a sign that read, "This area is being used to film a television program for ABC Studios." TV expert that I am, I figured it had to be either *Scandal* or *Designated Survivor*, but I doubted we would really be able to see anything. We crossed to the other side of the street, thinking we were getting out of the way and instead ended up walking right into a shot that they were setting up.

As one of the crew members was telling us about a location we could watch from, making her way across the street toward us was none other than Kerry Washington.

Unfortunately, all I could do was grab my dad's arm and repeatedly whisper, "Oh my god,

that's Kerry Washington!"

She was busy getting ready with an entourage anyway, and I didn't want to be that annoying fan. So we moved out of the way and stayed for a solid hour, watching as she and co-star Tony Goldwyn filmed about three short scenes. I don't even watch *Scandal*, but as an aspiring TV writer, I was entranced.

We did stop by the Natural History Museum for about five minutes to go to the gift shop, my favorite part of any museum.

I would've been happy just to go to Wawa and walk around for a bit, honestly. But because we didn't plan ahead or worry about sticking to a timetable, my dad and I had a much more exciting adventure. So next time you go on a day trip to D.C., don't make it jam-packed. Just go, and see what happens.

And of course, eat at Wawa.



COURTESY OF CATHERINE PALMER
The goose wings of the Wawa logo welcome customers.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thoroughbreds mocks the lives of the wealthy

By **LUIS CUIEL**
Staff Writer

Post-Oscar season has arrived and with that, more and more new movies are being released that are worth the time and price. This weekend saw the release of both *Thoroughbreds* and *A Wrinkle in Time*. The former features one of the last performances from Anton Yelchin, who tragically passed away two years ago, which is why I opted to see this film first.

After all, *A Wrinkle in Time* will still be playing at a theater next week and who knows how long a small film like *Thoroughbreds* will be available.

Thoroughbreds follows two friends from suburban Connecticut, Lily (played by Anya Taylor-Joy) and Amanda (Olivia Cooke), as they plan to murder Lily's stepfather Mark (Paul Sparks). Yelchin plays Tim, the hired gunman the girls use to try to get the job done.

The film's director and writer, Cory Finley, elegantly constructs two protagonists who not only feed off each other's personalities but also are unique and unsettling enough on their own that watching them generates an uncomfortable feeling that is hard to describe.

Thoroughbreds is Finley's first time behind the camera — his experience in cinema went as far as writing the script for a couple of short films that debuted last year.

Although originally intended to be a play, the direction of the film is key in portraying and executing the themes that the dialogue and script (also written by Finley) attempt to convey. That being said, none of this works without the performances of the two young actresses that spearhead the film.

Both Taylor-Joy and Cooke show that they are a force to be reckoned with; Cooke's lack of affect is an essential part of her character and is a contrast to Taylor-Joy's more emotive character.

Amanda's character is the pusher: She wants Lily to stop being someone fake, who is only focused on appearances. Amanda wants Lily to express herself and quit being ambivalent. She reminded me of that one friend that we all have, the

one that convinces us to do wild shit all the time.

Yelchin is also fantastic in his role that often provides comic relief, easing up the tension across the film, and his character also provides the audience with a contrast to the lavish lifestyle that both Cooke and Taylor-Joy's characters live in.

The "antagonist" (he has very limited screen time and is more of a trigger than a real antagonist) Tim, who is more or less a stereotypical rich step dad — an asshole who cares very little for the child he inherited.

That's all we really know about Tim, but in the 90-minute runtime his character makes sense. After all, this movie is about how the privilege these two girls have is both a benefit and a detriment.

The film's pacing is deliberately slow, divided into four chapters. At times, not much really goes on other than some interesting — if not creepy — dialogue which builds up the tension.

Intentional as the pacing may be, it certainly has the potential to be a little frustrating. Every time it seems like we will be reaching a potential climax, the script takes us to an unexpected place. It's in these corners where the novelty and Finley's unique background as a playwright shine the most.

By avoiding the genre tropes that come with thrillers, Finley is able to let his composer, Erik Friedlander, create a unique score, which was at times jarring and overall difficult to describe. It's the perfect complement to the two leads of the story and, although jarring, it helps maintain the tone of the film.

All in all, *Thoroughbreds* is an exceptional debut for director and writer Cory Finley. His playwrighting background is evident on the screen with dialogue that is sharp and concise, while his directing ability is up to par considering he had never been to a film set before.

Strengthened by two exceptional leading actresses who are both up-and-comers in Hollywood, *Thoroughbreds* is an exploration into the pitfalls of being wealthy, as well as just being a fun movie about sociopathic teenage girls.

Two artists discuss identity and art at the BMA



Mark Bradford, who spoke with Stephen Towns at the BMA, often works in paint and collage. RON COGSWELL/CC BY 2.0

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Staff Writer

On Wednesday March 7, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) hosted a discussion between Stephen Towns and Mark Bradford. Audience members from Hopkins, the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and the Baltimore community gathered in the museum's newly renovated auditorium for the opportunity to hear from these two artists. The turnout for the event was clearly more than the museum had anticipated: The line for entry snaked around the museum and some members of the audience were forced to stand in the back.

One noteworthy audience member was Amy Sherald, the Baltimore-based artist who painted Michelle Obama's official portrait. Before the event started, Sherald was asked to stand and received a booming round of applause from the crowd.

The event surrounded the opening of Towns' new quilt exhibit titled *Rumination and a Reckoning*, which will be on display at the BMA until Sept. 2 of this year. Though his work has been exhibited at other ven-

ues including the Arlington Arts Center, Galerie Myrtis, Gallery CA and Goucher College's Rosenberg Gallery, this is the first time it will be displayed in a museum.

While BMA Director Christopher Bedford remained onstage for the duration of the talk, the discussion was centered around Towns and Bradford: their art, their upbringings and their experiences navigating the world as black gay men.

The artists first spoke about Towns' choice to use quilting as a medium. Towns explained that he learned to sew from a young age and eventually perfected the technique through watching YouTube videos.

Later Towns elaborated that the act of quilting was associated with labor, which ties into his motifs of slavery and labor practices. He said that, at times, he would work so much that his blood would seep into the quilts.

Another major topic of discussion was the role that religion played in Towns' life. The artist grew up as a Jehovah's Witness, which he described as an

"isolated" religion. While he is no longer a part of the church, he explained that he is in a place of "spiritual awareness."

At the same time, he also stated his belief that he will never be able to escape elements of his religious upbringing. A number of his works, in both oil paintings and quilts, involve Biblical allusions and quotes.

Towns, known for his portraits of black men and women with halos, explained that this element of his work has both religious and cultural significance. While he noted that it is part of his break from the Jehovah's Witness notion of God being superior to all humans, the halos are also a form of protest against racism.

"It's hard to tell black people that they're ugly when they have a golden halo behind them," he said.

The artist also commented on his quest to understand himself and his identity through an exploration of American history, specifically slavery. He described his interest in novels and narratives related to slavery, including *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *12 Years a Slave*. This theme is apparent in many of his works, including those that are presented through quilting in the current exhibit.

On the subject of racism in the United States, Towns

also spoke on the role of black women in building the foundation of the country without respect or recognition. This sentiment is represented in one of Towns' quilts, titled *Birth of a Nation*, which depicts a black woman nursing a white baby on an American flag background.

The Q&A portion of the program included a statement by a member of the crowd who was also a black Baltimore-based artist. She commented on the significance of including Towns' work in the museum.

"Even though you aren't the first black artist to be featured at the BMA, it feels like the first time that I'm at the BMA," she said.

Another comment was made by a faculty member at Goucher University who asked about a past controversy at the school over the displaying of Towns' portraits of black men and women who had been killed in a slave uprising. Towns explained that he had agreed to have his work removed out of respect for a black staff member who was uncomfortable with the depictions.

The final question involved the inclusion of black artists in predominantly white spaces like the BMA. Bradford responded to this question by declaring that institutions like the museum have to progress and that there is a long history of artists from minority backgrounds forcing this progress to continue.

"You demand to be part of the conversation, then history will shape-shift around you," he said.

Center Stage presents Orwell's classic *Animal Farm*

By **RUDY MALCOM**
Staff Writer

This may be an article for the Arts & Entertainment section but allow me to share some world news with y'all before I launch into my theater review. (Please bear with me and my metanarrative.)

A couple of weeks ago, the Chinese government banned George Orwell's 1945 novella *Animal Farm*, a satirical allegory of Stalinism. It appears that President Xi Jinping ordered a sweeping online censorship crackdown with hopes of quelling criticism and dissent after the ruling Communist Party proposed the abolition of presidential term limits that had been established in the 1980s to ensure that another Mao Zedong would never rise to power.

On March 11, 99.8 percent of the delegates at the National People's Congress in China approved the plan, thereby enabling the indefinite extension of Xi's tenure.

Just one day before, I had gone to Mount Vernon and saw Ian Wooldridge's adaptation of *Animal Farm* — directed by May Adrales and stage managed by Jacqueline Singleton — at Maryland's state theater, Baltimore Center Stage. (The Office of the Dean of Student Life and the Par-

ents Fund sponsor Hop Art, which provides Homewood undergraduates the opportunity to receive free tickets to attend concerts, plays and musicals in Baltimore.) The show was co-produced by the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

While fighting in the Spanish Civil War, democratic socialist Orwell began to observe injustice and abuses of power. He grew critical of the Soviet regime's ideals, with which he had once been so enamored.

Animal Farm, as he described in a later essay, was the first book in which he made a conscious endeavor to "fuse political purpose and artistic purpose into one whole." He sought to illustrate the genesis of dictatorship.

He once recounted watching a little boy whipping a horse whenever it tried to turn. This moment made him recognize that "men exploit animals in the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat."

In *Animal Farm*, anthropomorphized animals revolt against their masters. The play begins with Major (Stephanie Weeks), an old boar who represents Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, narrating a dream to all the animals on Manor Farm. After his death, Major's words catalyze the others to rebel against and exile

the farm's owner.

Snowball (Brendan Tittley), inspired primarily by Leon Trotsky, and Napoleon (Melvin Abston), inspired by Stalin, assume leadership of the farm and rechristen it Animal Farm, for it will now be operated under the seven commandments of Animalism.

All animals are comrades; "all animals are equal." Napoleon steals Snowball's idea to build a windmill and banishes him. Napoleon and his fellow pig, the humorous minister of propaganda Squealer (Tiffany Rachelle Stewart), promise everyone a higher quality of life but quickly begin to overwork and manipulate the less literate and less intelligent animals. Horse Clover (Deborah Staples) delivers a particularly evocative performance as she somewhat recognizes that the increasingly tyrannical pigs violate their own laws and succumb to the same human vices they condemned.

At Clover's request, the cynical and wise old donkey Benjamin (Jonathan Gillard Daly) reads the ever distorting list of commandments. For example, the consumption of alcohol was once outlawed completely but is now forbidden only in excess.

Eventually, "all animals are equal, but some ani-

mals are more equal than others," and Animal Farm is restored to Manor Farm when the pigs, dressed as humans and standing on two legs, invite neighboring farmers over to trade. They serve a roasted pig.

The production was breathtaking; the man sitting to my right said "Oh my God" five times throughout the play. Designers Noele Stollmack, Andrew Boyce, Nathan A. Roberts and Charles Coes phenomenally used light, set and sound, respectively, to emphasize the decadence of the pigs and magnify the consequent desperation and eeriness.

The costumes, too, heightened the emotional dynamic of the show. Each actor held a personalized animal mask (by use of expression, shape and materials, mechanism and silhouette), and some held additional props, such as a horse tail and a donkey leg cane. In the program, Costume Designer Izumi Inabi explained some of her creative choices.

"I wanted us to feel the animals as abandoned and broken, and May felt that it was important for us to see the actors' faces fully all the time," she said. "Much of the inspiration came from oppressed workers in many different countries during the Communist era. I wanted to reflect their struggles



Anton Yelchin, who passed away in 2016, plays Tim in *Thoroughbreds*. GABBOT/CC BY-SA 2.0

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Throat Culture's 24-Hour Show impresses again

By COLE DOUGLASS
For *The News-Letter*

On Saturday, March 10, Throat Culture hosted their semesterly 24-hour show in Arellano Theater. Each of the 10 sketches that they performed — poking fun at everything from vegans to defending one's thesis to Throat Culture itself — were written, memorized and performed within the span of 24 hours.

"It really does all happen within 24 hours," senior Kaylynn Sanders wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We're only allowed to start writing a sketch at 8 p.m. on Friday night. We basically all meet up then and take over someone's living room for the next six hours and crank out one or two hopefully solid sketches which we all help read through and workshop as we go along."

Senior Joshan Bajaj elaborated on the challenges of putting on the show.

"The most difficult part of the show is memorizing all of the lines in such a short period of time. Since we don't get much sleep, it's made even harder, and so it's important to know how to keep the sketch going during the show if you forget some lines," he said.

The show began by poking fun at sketch comedy itself, as two members of the club — Sanders and freshman Shivani Pandey — escaped from backstage and revealed the dark inner workings of Throat Culture or, as they put it, Cult Throat-ure.

Sanders and Pandey laid out several of the group's malevolent schemes, like funneling the dollar admission fee toward sating Bajaj's obsession with skim milk, revealing their evidence on a whiteboard filled with references to the Antichrist and the Illuminati. All in all, a great way to start the show.

A later sketch cast Pandey as a doctoral candidate who, instead of defending her thesis with research and well-developed analysis, had to do so in a Miss Universe style pageant, complete with a talent portion (singing) and an evening wear runway walk set to a RuPaul song.

One sketch had rapper The Weeknd — played by junior Michael Feder — rant about his various problems, like not knowing how to spell "week-end" and that nobody had thought to tell him that being unable to feel one's face is probably a serious medical condition. Toward the end of the sketch, Lil Yachty — played by junior David Gumino — won-

dered why nobody ever mentioned that a cello isn't a woodwind instrument.

The group even managed to fit some impressive jokes into the shorter sketches peppered throughout the show. One of the biggest laughs of the night came when the group attempted to answer the question, "What happens if you touch MC Hammer?" with the titular musician played by sophomore Emma Shannon. The answer: Hammer, dead on the ground, as Bajaj warns the audience that "just because you can, doesn't mean that you should."

Another short sketch focused on two otters — played by Bajaj and Gamino — desperately searching for a lost rock, all while narrated by a British documentarian played by senior Molly Young.

If it sounds odd, that's because it was. But the final punch line, in which the documentarian admits that the fact that otters sleep holding hands with one another is, despite their previous statements to the contrary, a little gay, made the whole thing absolutely hilarious.

Some of the other sketches included a vegan discovering that milk comes from cows, members of a philharmonic orchestra engaging in some light locker room talk before a big performance and members of group therapy attempting to establish dominance over their new therapist.

Sanders also described the feelings surrounding the show.

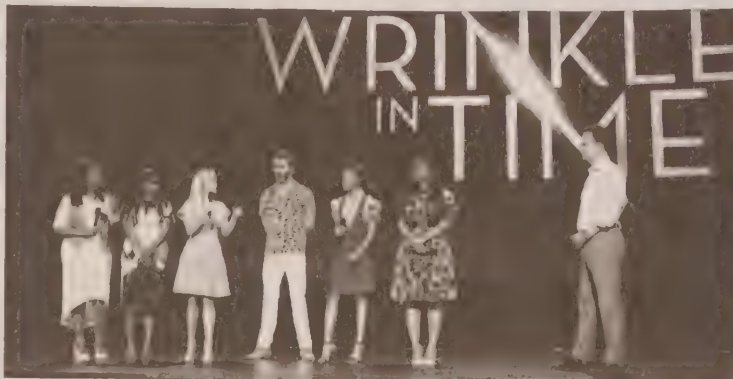
"I'm always amazed at the magic of 24 hour shows. With the stress running a little high all day, and you pacing around the back up until the last millisecond polishing the lines in your head, when you finally get out there on stage and the audience is laughing it's the best payoff in the world," she wrote.

When asked about their favorite sketch of the evening, both Sanders and Bajaj chose the otter sketch written by Emma Shannon.

In the end, the spring 24-Hour Show was an exercise in strange, often surreal comedy, and despite the time constraint and the off-the-wall source material, Throat Culture crafted a thoroughly enjoyable and hilarious show.

The entire show can be found on the group's YouTube page for anyone who didn't get a chance to see it live. Throat Culture will be hosting its final show of the semester on Friday, April 13.

A Wrinkle in Time celebrates self-acceptance



MELISSA HILLER/CC BY 2.0

A Wrinkle in Time features an ensemble cast, including Oprah Winfrey and Mindy Kaling.

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

As someone who has never read *A Wrinkle in Time*, I cannot attest to how faithful of an adaptation the new Disney film is. That said, I did thoroughly enjoy it. It's not as action-heavy or unpredictable as many of the other young adult movies I've seen, and its message of female empowerment and self-love are much stronger.

The story centers on 13-year-old Meg Murry (Storm Reid), a science whiz, and her younger brother Charles Wallace Murry (Deric McCabe), a child genius, as they struggle to deal with the mysterious disappearance

of their father Alex (Chris Pine), a NASA scientist.

Four years after her father vanished without a trace, Meg has become defiant, guarded and the target of bullies, most notably Veronica Kiley (Rowan Blanchard), a girl who seems to have it all. Her principal (André Holland) and even her mother Kate (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), who is also a NASA scientist, seem at a loss for how to help her cope.

Charles Wallace, a charismatic, perpetual optimist, consistently offers his sister love and support, but he changes her life in a unique way no one could have anticipated when he introduces her to his celestial friends Mrs. Whatsit (Reese With-

erspoon), who is friendly but blunt, Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling), a bookworm who speaks in quotes more often than in her own words, and Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey), the wise and maternal leader of this crew.

These three female beings inform Meg and Charles Wallace that their father, who had been working on a revolutionary method of space-time travel, is being held inside the universe by an evil force. They promise to help the children rescue him. Joined by Meg's classmate Calvin O'Keefe (Levi Miller), the siblings set out on an epic journey through which they learn much about the universe and about themselves.

The plot can be formulaic and confusing at times. It also moves along with fewer complications, or wrinkles if you will, than I'd expected. However, the power of

its central themes cannot be understated. With a script penned by Jennifer Lee, the Oscar-winning writer and co-director of *Frozen*, it's perhaps unsurprising that the movie explores the difficulties of learning to love yourself.

Mrs. Which, the celestial being with whom Meg bonds most strongly, is given the most potentially cheesy lines as she strives to help Meg boost her self-confidence. But Winfrey's earnest and not overly dramatic delivery makes them poignant and inspiring for Meg as well as for those watching.

Mrs. Whatsit, who often calls out Meg for having a pessimistic attitude, also tries to set her on the path to accepting herself. When the celestials offer gifts to help the young heroine find her father, Mrs. Whatsit tells a perplexed Meg, "To you, I give the gift of your faults."

Apptly-timed for our current political climate, the film also explores the reality that everyone has struggles, even someone like Calvin who hides his pain well or like Veronica who takes her pain out on others. As Meg struggles to stop judging herself so harshly, she is forced to reckon with the realization that she also might be judging others too quickly.

I believe *A Wrinkle in Time* has the potential to be especially meaningful for young girls, who begin facing pressures and expectations about their intellect, demeanor and bodies around middle school, if not before. Even at 22, I felt the movie provided messages that still felt relevant and worth hearing.

That being said, there is no reason why the movie shouldn't also impact boys, who certainly face societal pressures and expectations of their own that are often under-discussed. Furthermore, role models can and should cross gender lines. Girls of our generation grew up identifying with Hermione Granger but also Harry Potter. Now, young boys can strive to "be a warrior" like Meg Murry.

Additionally, the power of Meg Murry, the protagonist of a mainstream young adult movie, being a young black girl cannot be understated. Prevailing beliefs about female actors and blacks actors being unable to carry movies have only recently begun to be questioned and called out, and *A Wrinkle in Time* shatters them.

Furthermore, Meg is not an ingénue or girl next door. She is fierce, strong-willed and braver than any other character in the movie. She is brought to life by an equally strong Reid, who never overacts and is never overshadowed by her adult co-stars. Reid's younger co-star McCabe has an equally strong and mature presence, which is particularly evident at the movie's climax.

Lastly, I must mention the incredible direction by Golden Globe and Academy Award nominee Ava DuVernay. Given its fantastical elements, *A Wrinkle in Time* could have easily been botched in less skilled hands. But, crucially, DuVernay's worldbuilding makes the settings just as captivating as the story itself.

Women conquer Paris Fashion Week

By TANYA
WONGVIBULSIN
Staff Writer

During Paris Fashion Week, the world's fashion capital witnessed an unprecedented, strong community of female creative directors coming together to showcase their work. Whether it was Natacha Ramsay-Levi at Chloé, Clare Waight Keller at Givenchy or Maria Grazia Chiuri at Dior, there are more women leading prestigious fashion houses than ever before.

Like those hosted in New York City, London and Milan, the shows in Paris left messages that empowered women. Grazia Chiuri created a sense of feminist uprising by linking the Christian Dior Fall/Winter 2018 collection to the 1968 student uprising in Paris in the 1960s.

The show's venue was covered in art protests and magazine covers related to the demonstrations. The clothes also had traces of the crochet patterns and patchwork styles that were popular during this time in their designs.

At Chanel, Karl Lagerfeld called his fashion show, which took place in a man-made oak forest, *Leave Me Alone*, which Anna Wintour, the artistic director of Condé Nast, viewed as a response to the #MeToo movement. (However, environmental activists in France criticized Chanel for cutting down 100-year-old trees to decorate the Grand Palais. They also pointed out the irony of such a venue being used to display the brand's nature inspired collection.)

Although many viewed such designers' championing of female empowerment as evidence that the fashion industry, like many others, is moving forward, some critics questioned the motive of designers who used their shows to make social and political statements. Accord-

ing to *Teen Vogue*, some worried that brands were identifying with these movements for publicity without actively or genuinely supporting the causes.

For instance, Bryan Boy, a fashion blogger, spoke out against Dior on Twitter.

"I honestly wish they'd follow Gucci's lead of donating money to cause [sic] they believe in," he tweeted.

It's worth noting that Gucci recently donated \$500,000 to March for Our Lives.

In addition, the fashion community also advocated for diversity by including models of various ethnicities in the shows. However, unlike New York, there was virtually no inclusion of plus-size models in the Parisian runway — a reality that will hopefully shift in the near future.

But similar to at New York Fashion Week, which took place last month, there was a hint of the '80s in the air throughout Paris Fashion Week, with many looks featuring strong shoulders and bright colors. The two new "it" colors for this year's Fall/Winter season, as spotted on multiple runways, appear to be purple and silver.

Highlights included a gorgeous, pleated, one-shoulder halter metallic purple dress from Givenchy that bounced with the model's every step. At Maison Margiela, a model strutted down the runway with a feather-like blue and magenta dress that, almost like a pointillist painting, combined to form a gorgeous shade of purple when viewed from afar.

Sonia Rykiel's collection featured a silver and black polka dot pantsuit that shone beautifully as the model made her way down the runway. Last but not least, Virgil Abloh dressed his model in a one-shoulder metallic silver dress paired with knee-high black boots.

Two other notable trends to take away from

Paris Fashion Week were statement headwear and multi-layer outerwear. Hats were the hottest accessories this most recent fashion week.

At the Jacquemus show, models wore huge, oversized hats that trailed down their backs. At Saint Laurent, Anthony Vaccarello brought back the iconic black fedora. It was styled to cover half of the models' faces.

Balenciaga's extremely oversized coats were a hot topic all over Instagram.

"The theme of snow brought on the idea of layering against the cold. Coats upon jackets upon fleeces upon flannel shirts were progressively piled up until, by the end, there were people covered in up to seven pieces of fused-together outerwear," Sarah Mower from *Vogue* wrote.

This trend of layering different pieces was also evident at Sacai. However, Chitose Abe, the brand's founder and creative director, approached the concept of "layering" much differently than Demna Gvasalia, the creative director of Balenciaga.

In Sacai's Fall/Winter 2018 collection, Abe ingeniously and beautifully hybridized and patched different garments together to create mind-blowingly creative and complex layers of outerwear.

Paris Fashion Week showed us much creativity and progress towards greater inclusivity and empowerment. The shows displayed the undeniable fact that the beautiful and creative fashion world is not a bubble that can be isolated from society.

In reality, although it may not be as diverse as it should be ideally, the fashion industry is a cultural hub that reflects the world and voices people's opinions. It is a lens that can be used to better understand our current and past culture and society.



COURTESY OF THROAT CULTURE

Sketches for the 24-Hour Show can't be written more than a day before.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

foraged. offers a unique take on locally-sourced cuisine



COURTESY OF JESSE WU

The restaurant foraged. opened its doors in Hampden this past December.

By JESSE WU
Staff Writer

“What is *jowl*?”

You know when you and your friend have just been growing apart lately? Maybe there have been too many hours spent studying, partying or just hanging out with different crowds? There’s just a sense of a rift that starts to divide you two, and it makes both of you sad.

The solution: brunch.

Added bonus: you write for *The News-Letter*, and you both get to chat with the Head Chef because *The News-Letter* gives you all the authority in the world. Cool!

So, my buddy and I headed out to brunch at a restaurant in Hampden which I had heard about only a week ago. I had read about it opening back in December, but I hadn’t really thought much of it because it sounded way above my price point. That said, I figured this time it would be worth it since it was a special event, and I had a great friend to go with me.

foraged. opened in December 2017. Its menu is

based on a relatively new premise of showcasing local flavors through each season of the year.

For its normal dining menu, foraged. has a section dedicated specifically to pig parts and pickles, which sounds odd even to the more open-minded foodies among us. Hence, the restaurant’s first brunch event was aptly named “Pig Parts and Pancakes.”

“This is actually the only brunch event of the year,” chef and owner Chris Amendola said.

Amendola explained the science behind the timing of the brunch, which they oriented around the regional trees’ production of sap.

“It only happens when the temperature during the day is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit and the temperature at night is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Up north, it lasts longer, but where we live, it only lasts for two or three weeks. That is why we can only do this once a year,” he said.

Amendola, the former executive chef at Waterfront Kitchens, graduated from the Southeast Insti-

tute of Culinary Arts in 2002.

foraged. is the first restaurant that Amendola has started and owned. He explained that it’s a way to combine his love of foraging for unusual ingredients that have a shorter season with his love of cooking delicious food.

“For example, fiddlehead ferns: There are only three days in the year to collect them before they open up into fronds. I want to show that sort of plant,” he said.

This means that the menu is significantly shaped by what is available seasonally, with each transition serving as a unique creative challenge for Amendola.

“Moving into the spring is going to be a totally different game, and I’m interested to see how that transpires through the year,” he said.

The Baltimore Fishbowl describes the menu and its ingredients as “both adventurous and approachable.”

I would say this was an apt description of my meal. The belly I consumed was a familiar friend, while the jowl was the new guy who no one really knew well.

For starters, we ordered a stack of buttermilk pancakes. It came with a fat slab of butter on top and maple, black walnut syrup on the side. The syrup was thin, but it

fit appropriately with the soft pancakes.

What made this pancake experience stand out from any other was the combination of the buttermilk richness of the pancake in and of itself paired with the slightly unexpected flavor of the syrup. The maple was there for the familiarity, but the black walnut was a welcome addition.

The maple syrup came from Third Way Farm located in Havre De Grace, Md., and the black walnut syrup came from Whistle Pig Farm located in Red House, Md.

Then the pig parts came. Wow.

Each of the pig parts came with apple butter toast pieces and over-easy eggs (although, of course, you can get them any way you want them).

The jowl was also served with eggs and toast.

“All of our pigs come from Rettland Farm in Gettysburg, Pa. All pasture raised, GMO free. Great farmer, I’ve worked with him for years,” Amendola said.

Rettland raises Berk-

shire pigs with intense care, allowing them to graze and live in natural light.

The jowl is the part of the pig that is right below the cheek. It has a high fat content and was scored to render out the oils. It was served in small slices, and man, it packed a porky punch! Jowl is where I draw the line, due to the sheer amount of pork fat flavor that comes from it. On its own, it could take your taste buds down, but with the toast and eggs, it worked well.

The belly was a classic brunch cut. You can’t ever go wrong with pork belly with a bit of basic seasoning coupled with eggs and toast. Simple cooking is what brought out the amazing quality of ingredients in this meal.

That was my amazing brunch experience. I hope to go back soon to try out their new spring menu. foraged. is one of a few places where you can truly feel the importance of eating locally sourced and fresh food. Hopefully, there will be another brunch next year for all of you to enjoy!



COURTESY OF JESSE WU

The jowl, the portion of the pig just below its cheek, with apple butter toast and eggs.

Creative Alliance hosts artists Lonnie Holley and Paul Rucker

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Staff Writer

On Saturday night, the Creative Alliance hosted a musical performance by Lonnie Holley and Paul Rucker in the theater of their artistic space in Highlandtown.

Several dozen Baltimoreans gathered together to listen to these artist-performers as they took the stage to play original music and speak with the audience.

Both Holley and Rucker utilized their music and monologues to discuss weighty and essential themes, including women and family, black life in Baltimore and beyond, and the state of political life in America.

This concert offered the valuable opportunity to view two self-taught artists and musicians as they responded artistically to

current political and cultural moments.

First, artist and musician Paul Rucker took the stage and played several original songs on the cello. Chatting with the audience between each song, he discussed his mother, a talented church musician with wide-ranging musical knowledge.

Rucker played some songs which had religious origins, others which riffed on classical music and still others which were entirely his own. Rucker also spoke about growing up in South Carolina and of knowing *Black Panther* star Chadwick Boseman when Boseman was a teenager and aspiring actor.

Speaking about race, prejudice and politics in America, Rucker even jokingly announced his candidacy for the position of mayor of Baltimore.

Rucker is a resident art-

ist at Creative Alliance who works as a visual artist, composer and musician, often integrating live performance, sound, original compositions and art. He was a 2015 recipient of the Baker Artist Award and was most recently a recipient of a 2017 John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.

As an artist exploring the history of racism and slavery in America, Rucker explores the material culture of shackles, hoods and other physical remnants of racial prejudice.

He is perhaps best known for his satiric, fancifully patterned Ku Klux Klan robes, a prominent feature in his solo show, *REWIND*, which appeared at the Baltimore Museum of Art in 2015.

Following an intermission, musician and artist Lonnie Holley came onstage and began performing with a saxophone player and a drummer.

Holley is known for his electronic keyboard, an accompaniment to his rasping voice and original lyrics.

Every time that he appears

onstage, Holley performs different original and completely spontaneous songs.

With every performance, Holley’s music and lyrics are entirely improvised, changing according to his mood and his artistic inclinations.

Rucker joined Holley after a few songs and added his electronically influenced cello to the mix of instruments at play in the performance. Holley — a latecomer to the music world — recorded his first album in 2012 at the age of 62. He has performed and collaborated with musicians including Dirty Projectors, Animal Collective, Bill Callahan and Bon Iver.

During the show, Holley performed songs which reflected on his childhood growing up in Birmingham, Ala. — songs which discussed suffering, pain and prejudice, and songs which discussed the futility of national borders and border security.

Holley’s art focuses on similar struggles; he is known for narrative sculptures created from found objects, which appear in galleries and museums across the country.

Now working in Atlanta, Ga., the artist pursues his interest in experimental music and continues to work in visual art.

Holley’s work is on display at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. as a part of their current special exhibition,

Outliers and American Vanguard Art.

This exhibition focuses on the work of self-taught artists. Though they may operate on the periphery of the art world, they have been able to affect a great influence upon the practice of modern art, both in the United States and internationally.

The theater offered a comfortable atmosphere for those attending the concert, with a high ceiling strung with a variety of luminescent bulbs.

Attendees could buy drinks at a bar on one side of the theater and free popcorn was given away to the audience at the end of the show.

The Creative Alliance works to connect artists and audiences and encourages the live experience of art in the Baltimore community.

The Alliance promotes Baltimore as a place of cultural production, supports local artists and advocates cultural expression within the local context.

Upcoming events at the Creative Alliance this spring include concerts, film screenings, classes and workshops.

An exhibition of unmanipulated landscapes captured through Adam Davies’ lens entitled *Re-routings* is currently on display at the Creative Alliance. It opened on March 10 and will be available to view through April 8.



HREINN GUD LAUGSSON/CC BY 4.0

Musician and artist Lonnie Holley performed at the Creative Alliance with Paul Rucker.

Production of Animal Farm stuns audiences

ANIMAL FARM, FROM B3

in how I represented the animals. They became a fun mix of costume craft, props, and puppetry — and our actors also weighed in with their thoughts on their animals... I strongly believe this collaboration was the key ingredient for the successful execution of the design.”

Adrales wrote that she and the artistic team translated images from the Bolshevik Revolution, Tiananmen Square, the Ukrainian Maidan Revolution, the Civil Rights Movement, Ferguson and Black Lives Matter, the Women’s March, and other political rallies to the stage.

She added that the play encapsulates the inevitable betrayal of all political revolutions’ “ideals of justice, equality, and fraternity” and argued that the narrative is as relevant now as it was when first published over 70 years ago. There will always be pigs that seek to create mass confusion by disparaging the opposition, cultivating fear and propagating fake news.

“The cruel repetition of history reminds us how tenuous and fragile human freedom is,” she wrote. “Revolutions are only successful when the masses have the education to be alert and can be ready to speak out.”

Thinking critically about government is our only ammunition against totalitarianism. The theater’s Executive Director Michael Ross invited audience members to participate in, as Adrales wrote, “an engagement of ideas.”

“The beauty of live theater is that, like Orwell, we can use our art as a vehicle for awareness and education, and even sometimes for change,” she wrote.

First year graduate student Kemi Oguntona enjoyed how the show employed artistic expression to reflect on real life and depict hypocrisy.

“You start to make excuses because it benefits you... The show tells us it is very important to question ourselves and the people around us when it comes to information and to constantly check what you believe,” she said.

Senior Dikachi Osaji felt that the play was a compelling rendering of Orwell’s vision that would resonate with playgoers.

“It surprised me how well they portrayed the book — how it was properly adapted to the stage,” she said. “It showed that we’re constantly in a revolution; you can think that we’ve achieved an ideal society, but there are always people that are more equal than others.”

I highly recommend that you see *Animal Farm*, which runs until April 1. Be grateful that our nation’s president did not temporarily suppress images of Winnie the Pooh or the letter “n,” but do consider this disturbing reality: that the events of the play might mirror those occurring in the United States’ federal government today.

CARTOONS, ETC.



Color by Numbers



1= blue 2= brown 3=yellow 4=red 5=white 6=black 7=pink



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sleep expert discusses major sleeping disorders



COURTESY OF ISAAC CHEN
Susheel Patil spoke about his research on sleep disorders at an event called "Sleep 101."

By ISAAC CHEN
Staff Writer

In light of Sleep Awareness Week coming up this week, the Center for Health Education & Wellness (CHEW) and Nu Rho Psi co-hosted an event in Hodson 110 called "Sleep 101" on March 6.

This event sought to provide tips to students on how to make the most out of the sleep they get each night. Susheel Patil, clinical director of the Johns Hopkins Sleep Medicine Program, was invited to

speaking about issues centering around sleep. Patil's research interest lies in understanding the development of obstructive sleep apnea. He is the author of more than 30 publications and has been invited to give lectures across the U.S.

Patil's most recent publication described how diet and exercise can help prevent obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). The study, published in the *European Respiratory Review*, found that calorie restricted diets can help to improve obstructive sleep

apnea.

The symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea include upper airway obstruction during sleep and insomnia, but a variety of other symptoms can also be present. According to the study, 90 percent of cases in men and 98 percent of cases in women may go undiagnosed every year.

Furthermore, the study cited exercise as another potential treatment. The study found that adults who exercised a moderate amount (three times a week) had a reduction of obstructive sleep apnea symptoms. In addition, these improvements were observed separately from weight loss, meaning that exercise may be directly related to OSA improvement.

"One hypothesis is that moderate exercise reduces fluid accumulation in the legs and nocturnal rostral fluid shift," Patil and his co-authors wrote in the study.

At the end of his presentation last Monday, Patil mentioned his research and brought up the idea that sleep disorders are treatable and told his audience to talk to their physicians if they ever run into any concerning sleep problems.

Insun Yoon, a sophomore who attended the "Sleep 101" event, shared that she came to the event because she wanted to learn more about how to perform better under conditions of fewer hours of sleep.

"I wondered if there was a way to be more rested without necessarily getting more hours of sleep," she said. "As a student, I feel that there is a lot of pressure to perform well under sleepless conditions, and so I attended because the thought of productive sleep allured me."

Yoon said that the most interesting thing she took away from this event was that insomnia is not actually considered a disorder.

"Insomnia is not a disorder in itself, but can be seen as a symptom! It is kind of scary to think that insomnia is so common because that means any underlying diseases that insomnia is merely a symptom of are also common," Yoon said.

In addition to speaking about sleep disorders in his talk, Patil gave a brief

SEE SLEEP, PAGE B9

Hopkins invents a new drug to fight 15 cancers

By RACHEL HUANG
Staff Writer

According to the American Cancer Society, there is a predicted number of approximately 1.7 million new cancer cases and 600,000 cancer deaths in the United States for 2018.

Year after year, researchers test out numerous strategies in the hopes of finding a cure for, and eventually conquering, many variations of cancer.

Recently, researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine invented an immunotherapy drug that can be targeted to fight cancer.

Cancer happens when cells grow uncontrollably and take over the body's normal mechanisms. As cells continue to divide via mitosis, these new abnormal cells begin to take over and dominate the entire tissue or organ. These cells clump together to form a tumor that may eventually spread to other parts of the body through a process known as metastasis.

Cancer can be officially categorized into five categories: Carcinomas develop in epithelial tissues that surround internal organs. Sarcomas form in soft tissues such as bones, fats and muscles. Leukemia targets

blood producing tissues and the bone marrow.

Lymphomas start in the immune system and target T cells or B cells. And finally, central nervous system cancers affect the brain and spinal cord.

The difficulty that comes with treating cancer largely stems out of how same forms of cancer can affect patients differently. One patient diagnosed with breast cancer may require a completely different treatment plan compared to another patient diagnosed with breast cancer. This common phenomenon can be explained by many factors, such as differences in the individual, differences in breast cancer type and differing degrees of severity.

Cancer immunotherapy, the technique the Hopkins scientists used, can enhance the immune system's response to certain forms of cancer.

In some cases, the rapid cellular divisions are not strong enough to be detected as "foreign invaders" by the immune system. Therefore, by targeting and amplifying the immune system's response, immunotherapy can become a more target-specific treatment approach.

In other cases, such as programmed cell death

SEE CANCER, PAGE B9

Bones on Pacific island may belong to Earhart

By SABRINA CHEN
Science & Technology Editor

A recent study done in collaboration with the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery and published in *Forensic Anthropology* stated that skeletal remains found on Nikumaroro Island in 1940 are likely to be the bones of Amelia Earhart.

Earhart was the first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart set many flying records and was an inspiration to women in aviation. Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan disappeared on July 2, 1937 during their attempt to make a circumnavigational flight of the globe.

The pair were suspected to disappear over the central Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. At the time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a two-week search for Earhart and Noonan, but two weeks later, on July 19,

1937, Earhart and Noonan were declared lost.

Researchers and scholars have posed multiple theories for Earhart's disappearance. Some believe that Earhart faked her death to get away from the fame. Others believe that she crashed into the Pacific Ocean or on a nearby island.

In 1940, skeletal remains were found on Nikumaroro Island, 350 miles away from Howland Island. The remains were found with a woman's shoe, a sextant box designed to hold a Brandis Navy Surveying Sextant similar to the one Noonan used and a Benedictine bottle, which Earhart often carried on long flights.

At the time, these bones were studied by Dr. D.W. Hoodless of the Central Medical School in Fiji. Hoodless declared that these bones were not Earhart's because they appeared to be male bones. However, recent

SEE AMELIA, PAGE B9

Holding hands can ease pain by syncing brain waves

By ANNA CHEN
Staff Writer

There is something about the physical touch of a loved one that is comforting during the worst of days and the hardest of times. When words can not ease the pain, a simple hold of the hand can.

Last week, a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* revealed that there is science behind the comfort of human touch.

A team of researchers, led by postdoctoral pain researcher Pavel Goldstein from the Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Lab at University of Colorado Boulder, recently found that holding hands with a loved one in pain synchronizes breathing, heart rate and even brain waves. The more that two individuals' brain waves couple, the more it can decrease pain.

Goldstein said the idea for the study came to mind when his wife was giving birth to their daughter.

When he had held his wife's hand during labor, it seemed to help with the pain. He wondered if there was a way to test it out in a lab, whether touch can really decrease pain.

To test the inquiry, Goldstein and a group of researchers gathered together 22 heterosexual couples that had been dating for over a year and were between the ages of 23 and 32.

They subjected the consenting volunteers through

a few scenarios during which their brain waves were measured using electroencephalography (EEG) caps.

Each session lasted two minutes and included situations with the couple sitting together without touching, sitting together holding hands and sitting together in separate rooms.

Afterward, the same three situations were recreated, this time while the woman in the couple had a source of mild heat pain placed on her arm.

The results of the study showed that when not touching, couples experienced some brain wave synchronization in the alpha mu band, which is a wavelength generally associated with concentration.

Touch increased the brain wave coupling slightly when the woman was not in pain, although not significantly.

When the woman was subjected to pain and her partner was not allowed to touch her, the synchronization of their brain waves decreased drastically.

This qualified the results of a previous study using a very similar exper-



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Research demonstrates that touching another person can synchronize alpha mu brain waves.

iment, which reported that heart rate and respiratory synchronization dropped when the man could not hold the woman's hand.

What was new was that Goldstein and his team found that when the woman was in pain, having her partner hold her hand increased brain wave coupling significantly, even more so than when she was not in pain.

In addition, it seemed that the man's amount of empathy directly correlated to how much the couple's brain activity aligned and how much pain was eased by his touch.

Following the first series of experiments, the researchers tested the male partner's level of empathy and the results demonstrated that the more empathetic he was to her pain, the more their brain waves aligned.

This qualified the results of a previous study using a very similar exper-

The study did not look into whether the phenomenon applies to homosexual couples or between people in other types of relationships such as parent and child. It still remains a mystery how synchronizing brain waves through touch can help ease pain. Perhaps it could activate mechanisms in the brain that dull pain receptors.

"[Holding hands] may blur the borders between self and other," Goldstein and his co-authors wrote in the study.

More research is needed to bridge those gaps in knowledge, but the science shows it is not just imagination — a simple touch from your loved one really can make things better. As Goldstein said, in the age of technology and minimal physical interactions, don't underestimate the power of a simple handhold.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Earhart and her navigator disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937.

Macrophages may help ease tattoo removal

Intense treatments may harm cardiac patients

By SABRINA CHEN
Science & Technology Editor

A recent study published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* described how immune cells can be used to improve tattoo removal procedures. The study was done at the Immunology Center of Marseille-Luminy in France and led by researchers Sandrine Henri and Bernard Malissen.

By studying mice that had been tattooed, Henri and Malissen found that macrophages, a type of immune cell that can consume foreign unhealthy debris, may help to make tattoos less permanent.

Henri said that the group studied a mouse in which macrophages were eliminated. Using these mice, the team identified the identity of skin cells that are responsible for the maintenance of tattooed skin.

“By characterizing their phenotype, origin, and dynamics, we showed that they corresponded to dermal macrophages that have ingested melanin granules,” Henri, Malissen and co-authors wrote in the study. “Benefiting from the knowledge gained on melanophage dynamics, we further elucidated the identity, origin, and dynamics of the myeloid cells that are found in the mouse skin and capable of capturing

and retaining tattoo pigment particles.”

The study was actually an accident as neither Henri nor Malissen was initially looking to study tattoos. Instead, they noticed that macrophages bound to melanin granules in black mice and were led to consider how immune cells might affect tattoos.

The researchers tattooed green stripes on the tails of albino mice and using a microscope, found out that macrophages did indeed attach to the ink particles. Killing off the ink-bound macrophages did not do anything to the tattoo because new macrophages replaced the dead ones.

Most people think that tattoos are permanent because the ink sits deep in the skin. This belief has been backed by previous scientific trials that stated tattoos work by permanently staining fibroblasts, or cells that synthesize collagen.

However, the researchers in this study said that



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Research showed immune cells such as macrophages can aid the process of tattoo removal.

tattoos are maintained by macrophages continuously engulfing and regurgitating ink crystals.

Most of the time, when foreign substances enter the body, macrophages descend to consume the toxin. However, because ink granules are too bulky for breakdown by macrophages, the macrophages instead simply hold on to the granules.

When the granule bound macrophage dies, the remains of the immune cell, along with the ink granules, are consumed by a new macrophage, completing the ink recycling process.

The idea that macrophages bind tattoo ink particles may be important in future techniques used to remove tattoos. According to the *New York*

Times, tattoo laser removal can take as many as 20 treatments.

In the United States alone, one in five people have a tattoo somewhere on their body, and there are tens of thousands of laser removals annually. Researchers are now working to see if anti-inflammatory ointment that suppresses macrophages can help to reduce the number of treatments for tattoo removal.

Some dermatologists have attempted this ointment technique with successful results. For example, according to the *New York Times*, Jared Jagdeo, a dermatologist at the University of California, Davis, has been using this technique since 2014 and can now remove tattoos in 10 or fewer treatments.

By ELAINE CHIAO
Science & Technology Editor

A newly published study from Harvard Medical School revealed that survival rates for heart attacks can sometimes increase when cardiologists are away from their patients at academic conferences.

For many, this might seem like a puzzling conclusion. How could patients possibly fare better without the support and care of a trained cardiologist?

Anupam Jena, a Ruth L. Newhouse associate professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School and a physician at Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as the lead author of the study, explained his motive to look further into this research.

Jena was particularly intrigued in discovering why many medical interventions often do not result in an increase in observed survival rates.

“The fact that mortality actually falls for heart attack patients during these conference dates raises important questions about how care might differ during these periods,” Jena said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

When Jena and his research team first started investigating this topic in 2015, they had very different results in mind.

Initially, they expected to find that there would most likely be no change in survival rate in the presence of other professional staff who could fill in the spots for the absent cardiologist. Alternatively, they thought it might also be possible for there to be a slight decrease in survival rate if other doctors could not up provide the same quality of care for the patients in question.

However, to the researchers’ surprise, neither of the scenarios was actually observed. On the contrary, patients who suffered from acute cardiovascular conditions such as cardiac arrest and heart failure actually recovered more successfully in the absence of a cardiologist.

In other words, on the days where the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology summoned all the cardiologists to large-scale meetings, the patients that these cardiologists left behind sometimes ended up faring better without them.

Jena’s team explored the reason behind this counter-intuitive phenomenon.

According to Jena, many cardiologists would choose to employ more invasive measures for their patients, which does not always yield the best outcome for the patient’s health. In fact, patients who are not severely ill often get better in the long-run from less intense treatment options.

To delve deeper into confirming his hypothesis, Jena looked through the changes in patient mortality on the dates of Trans-

catheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics meetings.

Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics is currently the world’s largest interventional cardiology meeting. Interventional cardiology focuses on catheter-based management for heart disease, which is typically a much less invasive medical technique than open heart surgery in terms of treating heart attacks.

The direct benefit of this new study is that it targets a more specialized and specific group of cardiologists, as opposed to the team’s previous study in 2015 that included all types of cardiologists.

Furthermore, Jena and his team discovered solid support that backed up the findings from the 2015 study.

Before delving into the details, it is important to note that most of the patients in the study suffered from heart attacks that did not call for immediate stenting.

Stenting generally refers to placing a tiny tube in an artery or a blood vessel to hold the structure open. Patients who receive stenting are equally likely to undergo the procedure with or without

out a cardiologist, thus it would be harder to compare their survival outcomes.

From examining the statistics of non-stented patients, the team noted that patients admitted to the hospital on non-meeting dates generally suffered a higher mortality rate than patients who went to the hospital with a heart attack on the dates of the meeting, although the difference is not significant.

Across the board, researchers conclusively observed a more positive outcome when patients are receiving treatment in the absence of a cardiologist.

Despite the initial hypothesis that Jena’s team generated, there might be other more subtle reasons that can accurately justify the difference in mortality rates.

For example, the physicians who stayed in the hospital during meeting dates might carry out different procedures or routines that turned out to be more successful. Additionally, the type of medications prescribed and the number of side effects that were attended to are all factors that influence the final mortality rate of patients.

Following the recent publication of Jena’s research in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, he believes his team still has a long way to go and a list of questions waiting to be answered.

Most importantly, Jena hopes to find out how other doctors approach heart attack cases and in what ways do their procedures differ from those of the cardiologists away at meetings.

“What we really want to know is how we can close the gap in outcomes and save more lives,” Jena said.

DNA analysis sheds light on origin of sickle cell anemia

By ALLISON CHEN
Staff Writer

A recent genome analysis of almost 3,000 individuals has provided more evidence that supports the theory that the mutation which causes sickle cell anemia may have originated from a single person, nearly seven millenia ago.

The study was carried out by Daniel Shriner and Charles Rotimi from the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institute of Health.

Sickle cell anemia occurs when two mutated copies of the hemoglobin gene are inherited.

Hemoglobin is a protein found in red blood cells and is responsible for transporting oxygen, and individuals with the mutation produce an abnormal hemoglobin molecule called hemoglobin S. This results in red blood cells that are rigid and sickle-shaped, which can obstruct blood vessels.

Those who have, or are carriers of, sickle cell anemia most commonly have

African, South American, Mediterranean or Arabian Peninsula ancestry.

Symptoms and complications of sickle cell anemia include swelling of the hands and feet, jaundice, anemia caused by the rapid death of sickled cells, sudden episodes of pain called “crises,” and organ damage from lack of blood flow.

While bone marrow transplants have been explored as a potential cure, treatment usually involves managing symptoms. In the United States, those with sickle cell anemia have an average lifespan that is almost 30 years shorter than the life expectancy of the general public.

There have been two theories about the origin of the sickle cell mutation.

One idea, the multicentric model, is that the mutation arose independently five times in different geographical locations. This hypothesis came from the observation of five classical sickle cell haplotypes, or groups of associated single-nucleotide variations.

These sickle cell haplotypes are named for the region or ethnic group the patients they were originally from: Arab-Indian, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Senegal.

In contrast, the unicentric model involves a single origin for the mutation. This is the hypothesis supported by Shriner and Rotimi’s study, which was published in early March. In the study, 2,932 whole genomes from the 1000 Genomes Project, the African Genome Variation Project and sequencing efforts in Qatar were analyzed. Of these, 156 had a copy of the sickle cell mutation.

The researchers defined new haplotypes using phased sequence data, as opposed to using restriction sites, through which the five classical haplotypes were identified. Using mutation and recombination rates, they also hypothesized that the original sickle cell mutation arose 259 generations, or about 7,300 years, ago.

This period falls into the time range of the Holocene Wet Phase, a time in history characterized by a rainy and moist climate in northern Africa. Shriner and Rotimi suggested that the mutation could have originated in the Sahara region, back in the days when the

Sahara resembled a savanna more than a desert. Alternatively, the mutation may also have come from the equatorial rainforests of west-central Africa.

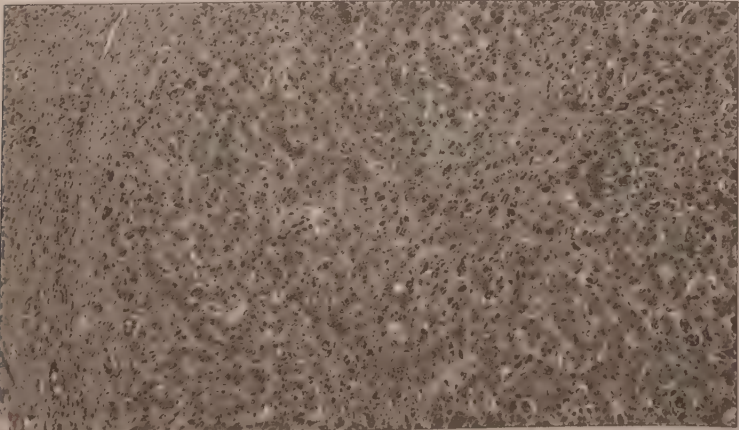
Over time the mutation spread around Africa, perhaps carried by the Bantu people who expanded from modern day Nigeria across sub-Saharan Africa. It eventually reached the Arabian Peninsula, India and beyond, as suggested by the presence of the classical Arab-Indian haplotype in Kenyan and Ugandan subjects.

Many of those with two copies of the mutation likely died young. Those with only one copy, however, would have been better protected against the serious threat of malaria. They could still contract the disease but were less likely to develop and possibly die from the most severe manifestation, cerebral malaria. The advantage this conferred in regions where malaria is endemic ensured its continued existence.

It is still uncertain whether the patterns observed by Shriner and Rotimi exist across a larger number of carriers and individuals with sickle cell anemia, beyond the 156 involved in the recently published study.

This would be a further avenue of investigation, along with exploration of the newly defined haplotypes.

Researchers are hopeful that further investigation will shed light on differences in the severity of sickle cell anemia symptoms between individuals and provide more information toward an eventual cure.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Sickle cell anemia is a disease that might have originated from a single person in history.

Natural protections can prevent skin cancer

By CINDY JIANG
Staff Writer

In recent times, it seems as if scientists are continually searching for treatments to cancer. Oftentimes, the ways to reduce risk or remedy the effects are primarily external, such as radiation to kill tumors. However, a new study might reveal an important internal player in the fight against skin cancer.

Upwards of a million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States alone. More than 95 percent of these cancer cases are nonmelanoma skin cancer and are often caused by excessive exposure to UV-rays from sunlight.

The remaining five percent is melanoma, which is the most serious type that begins in melanocytes or the pigment-producing skin cells.

The skin microbiome, or the collection of microorganisms that live on human skin, includes a complex environment that scientists are still analyzing to understand its protective qualities.

In the journal *Science Advances*, researchers at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine discuss the discovery of cancer protection as a job of skin bacteria.

According to Richard Gallo, a distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Dermatology at the UCSD School of Medicine, the team has identified a strain of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, a common form of skin bacteria on healthy human skin.

"[The strain] exerts a selective ability to inhibit the growth of some cancers," Gallo said in a press release. "This unique strain of skin bacteria produces a chemical that kills several types of cancer cells but does not appear to be toxic to normal cells. The presence of this strain may provide natural protection, or it might be used therapeutically to inhibit the growth of various forms of cancer."

The *S. epidermidis* exhibits this property through production of

6-N-hydroxyaminopurine (6-HAP). 6-HAP is a chemical compound that resembles adenine and hinders DNA synthesis to therefore prevent the spread of tumor cells. Additionally, it works to suppress the development of UV-induced skin tumors that lead to cancer.

For the experiment, populations of mice were exposed to cancer-causing ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The effects on the mice were then observed, and the results showed that mice with *S. epidermidis* that did not produce 6-HAP developed a considerably higher amount of skin tumors than the mice that did produce 6-HAP.

The mice microbiome was introduced to 6-HAP in two ways — intravenous injections and transplantation with melanoma cells. Some mice received intravenous injections every 48 hours throughout a two-week duration.

This method did little to affect the mice, both positively and negatively; however, the transplantation method suppressed tumor sizes by more than 50 to 60 percent when compared to the control mice.

"There is increasing evidence that the skin microbiome is an important element of human health. In fact, we previously reported that some bacteria on our skin produce antimicrobial peptides that defend against pathogenic bacteria such as, *Staph aureus*," Gallo said.

Julian Marchesi, a professor of human microbiome research at Cardiff University, commented on the findings, stating that the research is significant because it adds to the importance of the human microbiota.

"We have evolved to need these microbes and desperately need to understand all the roles they play in human biology and start to think more about what it is to be a human being," Marchesi said, according to *The Guardian*. "The next stage of this exciting work will be to translate it to human clinical trials and show that this bacterially produced chemical can protect the host from skin cancers."

New immunotherapy approach to fight cancer

CANCER, FROM B7
protein 1 (PD-1), the cancer disables the immune system and prevents it from fighting against the cancer cells. The Anti-PD-1 immunotherapies serve to activate the immune system.

At the Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, 15 different types of cancer have proven to be responsive towards Anti-PD-1.

By activating the immune system, the tumors began to shrink to the point where they became undetectable.

However, Anti-PD-1 is a treatment that does not work equally well in all patients, and it is a field that researchers are still working to decode.

Cells that knock out the immune system's response to foreign cancer cells are known as regulatory T cells, or Tregs.

Tregs make cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein 4 (CTLA-4), which prevents the immune system from making anti-tumor immune cells.

Atul Bedi, an associate professor of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery at the Hopkins School of Medicine, and his team



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Researchers found that the immune system can serve as a "vaccine" to be activated to treat metastatic cancers.

proposed that immunotherapy treatments could be strengthened by disabling the development of Tregs.

"This is especially challenging because Tregs are not only induced by the TGFbeta (transforming growth factor-beta) protein made by tumor cells, but make their own TGFbeta to maintain their identity and function in the tumor," Bedi said, according to Hopkins Medicine. "We've finally found a way to overcome this hurdle with this CTLA-4-targeted Y-trap."

Y-traps are what the researchers named this new type of immunotherapy drug. The first CTLA-4-targeted Y-trap was designed to trap TGFbeta and allow anti-tumor immune cells to reduce the production of Tregs.

The Y-traps have been proven to be even more effective than Anti-PD-1 in tests done on mice engineered with human cancer cells.

The Y-traps are composed of Y-trap antibody molecules that "trap" neighboring molecules and disable them.

These Y-traps not only showed significant decrease in the growth of tumors, but also responded in cancer types that previously experienced no effects from the Anti-PD-1 drug or other immunotherapy treatments.

Ultimately, Bedi hopes to use Y-traps as treatments for metastatic cancers. In addition, he hopes Y-traps can serve as a "vaccine" to not only help prevent the severity of the cancer, but also to prevent its recurrence. Hopkins, it seems, is one step closer to potentially finding a cure for cancer.

Amelia Earhart's remains might have been recovered

AMELIA, FROM B7
evidence has shown that Hoodless' sex determination for the bones may have been inaccurate.

University of Tennessee Knoxville Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Director of the Forensic Anthropology Center Richard Jantz reevaluated these bones decades later and concluded that Hoodless had been incorrect about the sex of the remains.

Jantz studied the measurements of seven bone fragments using Fordisc, a computer program that can estimate the sex, an-

cestry and stature from few skeletal remains.

Jantz was a co-creator of the Fordisc program, which is now used internationally to study bones.

Jantz's study states that Hoodless' mistake may have been due to the lack of adequate technology during that decade.

"There are many examples of erroneous assessments by anthropologists of the period. We can agree that Hoodless may have done as well as most analysts of the time could have done, but this does not mean his analysis was cor-

rect," the paper states.

Jantz also used photographs and historical data from Earhart's seamstress to estimate the aviator's bone lengths and compared them to the remains found on Nikumaroro island.

The modern techniques used by Jantz to study the bones has shown that the remains seem to fit the description of Earhart.

When Jantz began to study the bones, he did not jump to any conclusions and considered a wealth of other possibilities for the origin of the bones.

In particular, he consid-

ered that the bones may have belonged to the 11 men who had been killed at Nikumaroro in a 1929 ship wreck or that the bones belonged to a Pacific Islander.

However, the presence of the women's shoe and American Sextant box found alongside the bones strongly swayed him to believe that the bones were Earhart's.

"Until definitive evidence is presented that the remains are not those of Amelia Earhart, the most convincing argument is that they are her," Jantz said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

Professor addresses issues caused by lack of sleep

SLEEP, FROM B7
introduction to sleep biology as a gateway to understanding the current treatments for various sleep disorders, in addition to tips that can improve sleep quality.

"What I wanted to do with today's talk is to do a little bit of sleep biology 101, because I think if you understand a little bit about sleep and the science behind it, you will have a better understanding of the treatments and things I will talk about in terms of trying to improve sleep," Patil said.

However, Patil admitted that scientists to this date still do not understand the purpose behind sleep. Although there are a variety of different theories, none of them have gained substantial acceptance.

In his presentation, Patil listed four main theories on the purpose of sleep that exist today: inactivity for survival, energy consumption, restoration and brain plasticity. Patil also emphasized that the area of brain plasticity research in sleep is currently a very popular topic in the field.

"Brain plasticity is prob-

ably the newest theory that many scientists are looking into in terms of research," he said. "There is this constant sort of creation and pruning [of synapses]. As a result of that, this may be important to memory development and functional development in life."

Patil further went along to address the approximate hours of sleep humans need throughout their life.

"In terms of how much sleep we need, this changes over the course of a lifespan. Very early on, infants need somewhere in between 12 to 16 hours of sleep a day," Patil said.

He showed in his figure that high schoolers between the ages of 13 to 18 need approximately eight to 10 hours of sleep per day.

Adults that are 18 or above need at least seven hours of sleep per day. However, Patil stresses that it is important to note that these numbers can vary from person to person.

"These are normative data," Patil said. "How much sleep any individual needs is going to vary. I see certain people that get six hours of sleep and can



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Patil notes that most college students need at least seven hours of sleep.

actually do very well."

Patil also presented an interesting figure that compared sleep loss with drunkenness. Past research has shown that staying awake 20 to 24 hours leads to performance similar to when the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is 0.1 percent.

Patil also added that sleep loss can lead to higher rates of obesity and heart diseases.

The most important tip Patil suggested for people who seek to improve their sleep is to learn to make sleep a priority.

"The bottom line is that there is no shortcut. If you are having insomnia issues or having timing issues with your sleep, it really does require that you make sleep a priority for yourself," Patil said.

Patil also strongly suggested his audience to stop all electronics 30 to 60 minutes before bed. He encouraged people to not make the brain accustomed to the notion that bed is a place of activity. Besides that, Patil also emphasized the importance of having consistent sleep and rise times.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Chemicals produced by bacteria can protect people from skin cancer.

SPORTS

Baseball wins one, loses one in last games before Florida trip



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior Frank Clara hit his first career home run against Manhattanville.

By DANIEL LANDY
Senior Staff Writer

It was another weekend of ups and downs for the Blue Jays at Babb Field. Playing two games in two days, the Jays took on the Manhattanville College Valiants on Saturday and the Stevens Institute of Technology Ducks on Sunday.

The team started off the weekend strong, emerging victorious against the Valiants in a pitcher's duel. The Blue Jays' starting pitcher, junior Sean McCracken, and Manhattanville's Anthony LoFaro kept their opponents' bats quiet for the larger portion of the game. McCracken was lights out, pitching six scoreless innings and striking out four batters along the way.

"I really focused on keeping the ball low and staying ahead of hitters, and it allowed me to get a lot of weak ground balls. I also was able to throw my slider and curve for strikes, so the hitters couldn't sit on the fast-ball," McCracken said.

LoFaro was nearly as effective as McCracken, striking out four batters over five innings. However, he had one slipup that made the difference in what ended up being a one-run game.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, the Jays' senior first baseman Frank Clara capitalized on a pitch and drilled it over the right centerfield fence. Clara's solo shot was his first career home run and put the Blue Jays up 1-0.

Clara also scored another run in the bottom of the seventh inning. After being hit by a pitch and advancing to second on junior outfielder Tim Kutcher's walk, the first baseman came around to score on an RBI single from senior third baseman Mike Smith.

However, Manhattanville did not give in. The Valiants scored their lone run in the top of the eighth, on a solo home run by centerfielder Luke Scoggins. In the ninth, the Valiants got the tying run to third base with just one out. However, the Jays' junior pitcher Josh Hejka struck out the final two hitters of the game, and the Blue Jays eked out a narrow 2-1 victory.

After the game, Clara talked about his performance and the team's laborious efforts to manufacture runs, which have been hard to come by, especially in this March's frigid weather.

"In the beginning of the season, especially with the cold weather, we know

that it's going to be a low-scoring battle. Because of that, we need to make every at bat count," Clara said. "A few hits strung together can win a game. When we face good pitching, this becomes even more important. We have an incredible lineup, and it's hard for any opponent to get through 27 outs unscathed."

Clara's valuable offensive production carried over to the team's second contest of the weekend against Stevens.

"For me, I'm going up there, trying to stay loose and not tighten up from the cold and putting my best swing on the ball," Clara said.

Clara went 2-5, recorded an RBI and scored a run in his second game of the

weekend. Kutcher and sophomore shortstop Dillon Bowman also had productive days at the plate for the Jays.

Kutcher went 3-5 with a walk and an RBI, while Bowman went 3-4. Senior starting pitcher Nick Burns had a solid outing, surrendering only two runs (one earned) and striking out three batters over five innings.

However, Hopkins could not keep up with the Ducks. Despite the fact that the Ducks' starting pitcher Charlie Ruegger surrendered four runs over seven innings, it could have been much worse for Ruegger, who surrendered 14 hits, two walks and hit three batters during his outing.

The Blue Jays left 16 men on base during the game, including three innings where they left the bases loaded. In two of those innings, Hopkins had the bases loaded with fewer than two outs and were not able to score. Stevens managed to pitch out of every tight situation, as they never allowed more than one run in any inning.

On the other hand, all of the Ducks' runs came in the fifth and sixth innings, where they scored two and three runs, respectively. Those runs ended up being enough,

as Stevens Tech pulled out a 5-4 victory.

Centerfielder Ambrose Consol was the Ducks' main contributor at the plate, hitting a two-run home run in the fifth inning and also scoring a run during the team's three-run sixth inning.

"The loss was definitely not what we wanted, but there were a lot of good at bats, and our pitchers were throwing strikes. I am excited to see how we play in warmer weather," McCracken said.

Despite the loss, the Blue Jays remain confident moving forward. The team has its sights set on next week, as they head south for their annual trip to Fort Myers, Fla.

"As a senior, I've seen a lot of great rosters come through Hopkins baseball. We've won the Conference twice and advanced to the mid-Atlantic regional all three years of my tenure," Clara said. "Anything can happen in these early games. With a few one-run losses in our preliminary games, we are going into Florida 4-4, which is

not where we want to be, but there is a lot of room for improvement."

Clara is optimistic that the annual Florida trip will be a great opportunity for the Blue Jays to gain momentum that will carry them through the rest of the season.

"Hopefully the warm weather will jump start our bats, and we can get a win streak going into Conference play. I have the utmost confidence in this team to follow in the footsteps of previous teams of which I have been a part,"

Clara said. "Our goal every year is to win the Conference Championship, win our regional and ultimately be the last one standing in Appleton."

Hopkins is scheduled to play 10 games in Fort Myers

from March 15 to 24. They will then return to Baltimore for a matchup on Tuesday, March 27 against the Catholic University Cardinals. The game against Catholic will be their last regular season game before the Jays begin Centennial Conference play.

"Hopefully the warm weather will jump start our bats, and we can get a win streak going."

— FRANK CLARA, SENIOR FIRST BASEMAN

W. Lacrosse outplays both Boston and Hofstra

By MATTHEW RITCHIE
Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team took care of business this past week with two strong showings on Homewood Field. The friendly confines of the home field proved to be too much for visiting programs, as the Jays were able to beat the Boston University Terriers 18-11 last Wednesday and the Hofstra University Pride 15-6 last Saturday afternoon.

The Jays started off against the Terriers in a dead heat at 2-2 within the first 10 minutes, trading goals until freshman attacker Shelby Harrison was able to break the deadlock with her second goal around the 13-minute mark. Harrison's goal ignited a firestorm as the Blue Jay offense broke into a 6-1 run with the first goals coming from sophomore attacker Maggie Schneidereith and freshman attacker Aurora Cordingley. The run was sustained by senior attacker CeCe Finney and junior midfielder Nicole DeMase and was finally capped off by Schneidereith's second goal of the game.

This run afforded the squad a comfortable lead to the tune of eight goals to Boston University's three. The Terriers were able to scratch one back right before the end of the first half on a loose-ball goal from attacker Avery Donahoe.

The Blue Jays looked to continue the momentum that they had in the first half by staying strong in the second.

"The past couple of games, our team has been

focused on being organized and communicative for the full 60 minutes," senior attacker Emily Kenul said.

Hopkins did just that, as Harrison fired the opening shot of the half from an assist by senior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald. This goal marked the first career hat trick for Harrison, which pushed the lead to 9-4. Harrison, in fact, was recently named Big 10 Freshman of the Week.

Schneidereith backed Harrison up with another goal assisted by Fitzgerald, giving the Jays a double-digit scoring total, further cementing their advantage over the Terriers. After the opponents grabbed another goal from free position, Kenul put the game out of reach with back-to-back goals, giving Hopkins a seven-goal advantage. The Jays never looked back, winning by a score of 18-11 and improving their record to 5-2.

This offensive outpouring marked the second straight game in which Hopkins had scored 18 goals or more. Kenul points to their focus and comfort with each other as a reason for the recent offensive success.

"Offensively, we wanted to continue to grow our chemistry and play to each other's strengths," Kenul said.

This mindset worked, as they outshot the Terriers 39-30. Early in the game, Kenul notched her 100th career goal, making her the 24th lacrosse player in school history to reach that milestone. Schneidereith also recorded a career-high four goals in the matchup.

Hopkins looked to ride their offensive success into the next game against Hofstra on Saturday. They started off strong, with goals from Fitzgerald and Schneidereith granting them an early 2-0 lead. Hofstra would not go down without a fight, as midfielder Alexa Mattera put up a pair of goals in a span of seven minutes to tie up the score. But almost immediately, sophomore midfielder Mackenzie Heldberg fed fellow classmate midfielder Lexi Souder to put the Jays up 3-2 for a swift response to Hofstra's attack.

Hofstra was determined to not let the game slip away and rattled off three straight goals to bring the score to 5-3 in favor of the Pride. The run was highlighted by back-to-back goals by midfielder Alyssa Parrella.

The deep Hopkins lineup exhibited a distinct resilience the rest of the way, which will hopefully serve them well throughout their entire season. After Hofstra went up by two, the Blue Jays fired

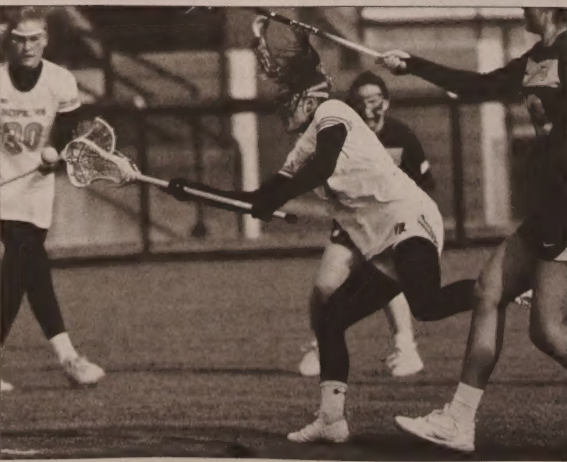
back with nine unanswered goals, started off by another goal by Schneidereith with four minutes left in the first half.

In the midst of this electric run, six different Jays got onto the scorecard, with Cordingley recording her second straight hat-trick for the Jays, junior midfielder Miranda Ibello notching a goal and Finney, Heldberg, Kenul and Fitzgerald all finding the net at least once. With junior goalkeeper Haley Crosson recording a career-best 13 saves, Hofstra afforded only an additional goal the rest of the way. Hopkins finished up a commanding win by the margin of 15-6.

Kenul was encouraged by the team's hard work, as they pushed their modest win streak to three games.

"We want to keep working hard, taking the season one game at a time to continue to get better," Kenul said.

Hopkins will look to continue their solid play against the University of Maryland on Saturday, March 17.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior Emily Kenul is the 24th Hopkins player to score 100 career goals.

Jays excel in long distance at Nationals

T&E, FROM B12

and 3.55 meters in the long jump placed her in 16th and 17th, respectively.

Su had her best performance of the day in the shot put, finishing in fourth place with a throw of 10.87 meters. Unfortunately, an injury caused Su to withdraw from the event.

On Day 2, Olshanski claimed seventh in the nation with a mile time of 4:59.42, capping off a successful rookie indoor season.

The three remaining Blue Jays who had yet to participate at NCAAs lined up for the 3,000-meter. Junior Felicia Körner, the only participating Blue Jay to have competed in last year's NCAAs, finished with a time of 9:46.90, earning her 10th place.

Sophomore Rebecca Grusby finished the race in 9:56.20, which was good enough for 13th place, and junior Tasha Freed finished in 10:14.74.

The Jays' solid performance in the 3,000-meter comes one year after Körner finished in second place in the event and concludes an impressive indoor season for Hopkins.

Clawson, Smith, Olshanski, Grusby, Körner and Freed were all members of the National Championship winning cross country team this past fall. The six continue to rack up awards, with even more presumably on the way with the coming outdoor track and field season.

The Jays' success comes behind some outstanding coaching. The U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association named head coach Bobby Van Allen the Mideast Region Women's Coach of the Year, along with Assistant Coach Alex Jebb as the men's and women's Mideast Region Assistant Coach of the Year.

This marks the seventh time that Van Allen has earned the honor, and deservedly so. He led the Jays to their eighth straight Centennial Conference Championship and did so by the second largest margin in Conference history. On top of that, earlier in the season, Hopkins climbed up to No. 2 in the rankings, the highest in program history.

"It's incredible in itself to compete at such a high level with the best D-III athletes in the nation. I was impressed with how everyone performed," Clawson said.

She elaborated on the team's indoor success at NCAAs.

"Our top seven [athletes] from cross country NCAAs all qualified for indoor NCAAs. The depth on our team is insane!" she said.

Hopkins will look to carry the momentum of their successful indoor season in the spring. The Blue Jays will head outdoors on March 30 in Richmond, Va., when they compete in the Fred Hardy Invitational.

SPORTS

NBA superstars address mental health issues



Adam Orla-Bukowski
Sportpinion

it may seem like the easy choice.

Seeking professional help for those issues is difficult, but ultimately it is the choice that makes you stronger.

A 2014 study by Dr. Neelima B. Chauhan of the University of Illinois linked the repetitive brain injury often caused by concussions in sports like football to depression, anxiety and suicide. It hurts to say, but as of 2018, 37 former NFL players have taken their own lives, including notable names like offensive lineman Terry Long and linebacker Junior Seau.

These individuals suffered tremendously and unfortunately were not able to get the help they needed in time. Seau's brain was studied by the National Institute of Health and revealed symptoms of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Unfortunately, widespread mental health issues have also impacted the Hopkins student population. According to a report released by the Task Force on Student Mental Health and Well-being in February of this year, roughly 20 percent of Hopkins students receive professional treatment for depression or anxiety.

These issues are finally coming to light in a way that can be seen by those who need it most.

Nearly 30 percent of undergraduates, 25 percent of professional students and 15 percent of graduate students have considered suicide. These statistics are tremendously higher than the averages for Americans aged 18-24, signaling a dire need for action.

"We found a lack of JHU staff dedicated specifically to health education and wellness," the Task Force report read.

The Center for Health Education and Wellness at Hopkins (CHEW) currently has only three full-time staff members, and the University Health Services Wellness Center has just one full-time staff member.

If resources and campus culture do not change tremendously, our students will continue to suffer in silence, and students' struggles with mental health will continue to increase.

This article may seem dark, but there is good news. These issues are finally coming to light in a way that can be seen by those who need it most.

We should say thank you to Mr. Love, Mr. DeRozan and many others for sharing their stories with us so that we may reach out to those in danger and help them learn how to address these mental health issues in the best way possible.

With the right resources and the right change in campus culture, students and athletes all over the world can begin to address their mental health the right way.

On Nov. 5, Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love suffered an unusual illness during a game against the Atlanta Hawks. During a timeout, Love rushed to the locker room seemingly out of nowhere and did not return.

In an article for *The Players' Tribune*, Love described his mental state at the time.

"I was running from room to room, like I was looking for something I couldn't find. Really I was just hoping my heart would stop racing. It was like my body was trying to say to me, 'You're about to die,'" Love wrote. "I ended up on the floor in the training room, lying on my back, trying to get enough air to breathe."

What happened turned out to be a panic attack. Love was taken to a clinic by the Cavaliers' medical staff and, soon after, began seeing a professional for therapy.

A few months later, Toronto Raptors superstar DeMar DeRozan opened up about his struggle with depression in a tweet that read, "This depression get the best of me..." His tweet, along with Kevin Love's article, kickstarted a national discussion on the prevalence of mental health issues affecting athletes.

In popular culture, athletes are typically stereotyped as strong, powerful and confident, a perception which makes it more difficult for them to seek help. However, it is extremely important to note that this image of strength, power and confidence does not prevent mental health issues like depression and anxiety from taking hold. Love spoke about that stigma in his article.

"I remember when I was two or three years into the league, a friend asked me why NBA players didn't see therapists. I scoffed at the idea. 'No way any of us is gonna talk to someone,'" Love wrote.

This stigma is particularly potent in men, particularly those who subscribe to the conventional portrayal of an "ideal man." Many view seeking help for serious mental health issues as a display of weakness.

This cannot be further from the truth. Continuing to let mental illness impact your life without addressing it is a mistake in the long term, even if

By GREGORY MELICK
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the men's tennis team traveled to Swarthmore, Pa. to take on the Generals of Washington and Lee University. The Blue Jays entered the matchup ranked 18th in the country and the Generals ranked 31st.

The Jays were able to win two out of three doubles matchups. The freshman duo of Eric Yoo and Vishnu Joshi won 8-3 at second doubles. Yoo continued by winning 6-4, 6-4 at second singles, which is why he is *The News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week.

With the help of his singles and doubles victories, the men's tennis team was able to defeat the Generals by just one point, the final score of the matchup being 5-4. The team's win improved their all-time record with the Generals to 8-3, with Hopkins having won the last seven of the series.

Yoo is off to a hot start this season, undefeated in 2018 in both singles and doubles. Yoo and Joshi have won all three of their matchups this year, including a win over a D-I team, Morgan State. Additionally, Yoo has won both of his matchups at second singles, against Salisbury University and the Generals.

Yoo began his collegiate career in the fall at the Navy Invitational, where he faced many tough opponents from both D-I and D-III programs. Though he only went 1-3 in that tournament, his one win was over a D-I player from

Monmouth University.

Yoo bounced back from his first tournament a week later, competing in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Southeast Regional. He opened that tournament with two wins to make it to the round of 16 before losing.

Yoo sat down with *The News-Letter* to talk about his success so far this year and his goals for the rest of the season.

The News-Letter: You are 3-0 in doubles with your partner Vishnu Joshi, as well as being 2-0 in singles. How have you been so successful right off the bat in your first year playing college tennis?

Eric Yoo: Vishnu carries me in doubles. For singles, I just remind myself that I am playing D-III sports. My results do not matter in the grand scheme of things, so I play with pretty much no pressure, which is why I have had such good results so far.

N-L: How did playing in the Navy Invitational and Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Southeast Regional in the fall help prepare you for this spring season?

EY: ITAs and Navy helped me with my confidence a bit. I took a long break from tennis before the college season started, and winning matches

helped me feel like I could still compete with good players.

N-L: What have been the biggest differences between playing in high school and playing in college?

EY: In high school, I cared about my results because I was trying to get recruited by

Harvard. In college, I don't care about my results anymore, so I just play loose.

N-L: What are your personal goals for this season and beyond?

EY: For this season, I want to go undefeated for the sake of my ego. Beyond this year, I want to stay in shape.

N-L: What are the team's goals for this season, having started out 2-1 with your only loss coming against the D-I Morgan State team by a final score of 5-4?

EY: I hope we win Nationals. Rings are cool.

N-L: What does the

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK ERIC YOO — MEN'S TENNIS

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Eric Yoo
Sport: Tennis
Year: Freshman
Major: Undeclared
Hometown: Springfield, Va.

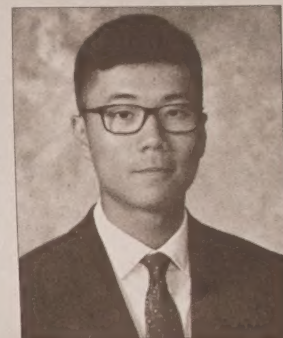
team need to do in order to achieve the goal of winning Nationals?

EY: Our toughest competitor in Conference is probably Swarthmore. We've won Conference for at least the past 10 years, but we are not going to take anything for granted. We are just going to take it one match at a time. Our singles line up isn't totally set yet, so we need guys to keep improving their game and hopefully help contribute in the future.

N-L: What will be the biggest strengths and weaknesses for the team this year?

EY: Strengths: We have lots of depth and guys working to make the starting line up. Weaknesses: None. We're winning nationals.

Catch Yoo defend his winning streak as he and the rest of the Blue Jays return to play on Friday, March 23. The team will head down to Fredericksburg, Va. to face off against Bates College in an exciting matchup.



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Freshman tennis player Eric Yoo.

M. Lacrosse defeats the sixth-ranked Syracuse Orange

By HALEY CROSSON
For *The News-Letter*

In front of a crowd of over 5,000 people, the Blue Jays came up with the upset over the No. 6 Syracuse University Orange. Sophomore attacker Cole Williams led the Blue Jays with four goals and one assist in an 18-7 rout of Syracuse in New York's Carrier Dome.

Despite the Orange dominating in shots, ending with 46 to the Blue Jays' 25, Hopkins was able to secure the lead by only turning the ball over eight times. The Blue Jays jumped out to a 3-0 lead and never turned back.

Hopkins went into halftime with a 7-2 lead with help from senior attacker Brinton Valis, junior attacker Kyle Marr and Williams. After halftime, the Orange answered an early goal by Hopkins but never went on a run to make the

game close. Senior goalie Brock Turnbaugh was a big reason why Syracuse's offense was limited. He led the defense and finished the game with 10 saves and an impressive 59 percent save percentage.

Senior attacker Shack Stanwick scored back-to-back goals in the third quarter in part of a five-goal run that was capped by a goal by Marr to put the Blue Jays up 13-3. From then on, the game was all but wrapped up in favor of the Jays, who finished the game with a 18-7 victory.

Hopkins impressed on Saturday by not only beating a top-10 team by more than 10 goals but by also having 10 people in the score column. Junior midfielder Alex Concannon continued to impress coming off of an injury with three goals and two assists. Senior midfielder Joel Tinney finished with four assists, tying a career

high to help the Blue Jays get the win.

More noteworthy scoring came from freshman attacker Connor DeSimone, who scored three goals and is seeing more and more playing time as the season progresses.

"I just do my best to make a play when my name is called. We did a great job of sharing the ball [on Saturday], and I happened to be on the receiving end of a few of them," DeSimone said.

DeSimone has shown he can play and compete right away in the D-I level, with six goals on the season already.

Hopkins also found success through their face-off wins. Leading the effort was senior face-off specialist Hunter Moreland, who won 17 of the 26 face-offs on Saturday. Additionally, he picked up six ground balls to finish the game.

His dominance at the X, especially in the second half, allowed for the Blue Jays to put the game away. After the throttle of the Orange on Saturday, the Blue Jays moved up in the national rankings from No. 17 to No. 10, and Syracuse moved from No. 6 to No. 13.

The Blue Jays built off the momentum from Saturday on Tuesday night, when they faced off against the Retrievers of the neighboring University of Maryland, Baltimore County. While the game did not start out as the Jays may have wanted, the end result was certainly something to be proud of.

The Jays' offense sputtered in the first half, not scoring until there was one second left in the first quarter. At that point, the score was 2-1 in favor of the Retrievers, but the Hopkins defense would dominate the remainder of the game.

The Jays would hold the Retrievers scoreless for the next 38 minutes of game time, during which they managed to score 10 goals of their own from the time they were down 2-0 to push the lead to 10-2 with just over seven minutes remaining in the game.

Hopkins would ride that run through the rest of the game, winning by a final score of 13-6 to improve to 4-2 on the season, including three consecutive wins.

Stanwick finished the game with three goals and four assists, leading the Jays in both categories. Marr, Williams, DeSimone and freshman attacker Brett Baskin all contributed two goals of their own, and Tinney chipped in a goal with a pair of assists.

Hopkins again could attribute much of their success to the face-offs, which they went 16-21 on, including Moreland's individual 12-15 record, tacked on to his eight ground balls in the game.

"My main focus is to get my teammates the ball, and they do the rest," Moreland said.

The Blue Jays head back to the historic Homewood Field on Saturday, March 17 as they welcome the University of Delaware. The first face-off is set for 3 p.m.



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The Jays took home an impressive win against sixth-ranked Syracuse.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

In men's lacrosse, sophomore attacker Cole Williams and sophomore defender Jack Rapine were named the offensive and defensive Big 10 Players of the Week, respectively, for their contributions in the 18-7 victory over Syracuse.

CALENDAR

Saturday:
W. Tennis @ Skidmore: 10 a.m.
W. Lacrosse vs. Maryland: 12 p.m.
M. Lacrosse vs. Delaware: 3 p.m.

Sunday:
Baseball vs. Bethel: 9 a.m.

Track and Field compete in NCAA championships

By DAVID GLASS
Staff Writer

One week after their strong performances at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships (ECACs), the Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams sent 10 athletes to Birmingham, Ala. to compete in the D-III Indoor Track and Field Championships.

On Day 1 for the men, sophomore Matthew Su competed in the long jump, while junior Grant Mosser represented Hopkins in the heptathlon.

Su's career-best jump of 7.12 meters last weekend at the ECACs earned him the 12th seed entering the event. After qualifying for the finals, Su finished in ninth place with a mark of 6.82 meters.

Mosser started off strong in the 60-meter, finishing with a time of 7.36, earning seventh place. He followed that up with a 9.65-meter throw in the shot put, earning him 465 points. To end the first day, he placed fourth in the high jump with a mark of 1.90 meters, tacking another 714 points to his total.

Heading into the second day in ninth place overall, Mosser spoke about his mindset going into the event.

"I came in telling myself that I had earned my spot there, that I had been given a lot of talent and I did not want to waste it, and that someone had to win, so why not me?" he said. "Along with that I just wanted to make sure I took the time to appreciate my time there and make the most of it."

Mosser began the day with an 11th place finish in the 60-meter hurdles and a 10th-place finish in the pole vault.

In the 1,000-meter, Mosser put forth his best performance of the weekend. He finished in 2:41.22, earning him third place, as well as 860 points.

In the long jump, the final event, he had a 6.49-meter jump, good enough for seventh place.

Mosser's efforts accumulated 4,754 points and awarded him a 10th-place finish overall.

Mosser attributed his success to the constant support he has received from his fellow Blue Jays.

"I honestly would not have been able to make it to Nationals without my teammates and coaches," he said. "There were times they believed in me more than I did in myself, and that really showed itself at meets like ECACs, where I had an incredible meet. They honestly were the most important part in my success this year."

For the women, Day 1 saw action from five of the Jays' eight athletes.

The Blue Jays had a strong showing in the mile prelim heat, as freshman Therese Olshanski finished in 4:57.73 and senior Caroline Smith finished in 5:07.01. Olshanski's time qualified her for Saturday's final.

With a time of 17:36.27, junior Ellie Clawson finished 16th overall in the 5,000-meter.

Clawson shared her expectations for and thoughts of the race.

"I have had several little setbacks this season that have made it difficult for me to stay consistent with my training, but I felt like by Nationals I would feel ready to get after it," she said. "I was pretty disappointed with my 5K, but my volunteer coach Nate Ghena told me I'm only allowed 10 minutes to dwell on a race. Always best to just learn from it and move on."

In the long jump, sixth-seeded junior Maya Hammonds finished in 10th place with a mark of 5.42 meters. This performance comes a little over a month after Hammonds set the Hopkins record with a 5.76-meter jump.

Senior Jenn Su represented Hopkins in the heptathlon. She finished the 60-meter hurdles in 9.34, earning her a seventh-place finish. Marks of 1.44 meters in the high jump

SEE T&E, PAGE B10

M. Lacrosse dominates Syracuse and UMBC



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This past weekend, the men's lacrosse team headed to Syracuse, N.Y. to play the Syracuse University Orange at the Carrier Dome in front of a crowd of over 5,000. In a dominant performance, the Jays defeated the Orange 18-7, scoring the most goals at the Dome since they beat Syracuse in the 2003 NCAA semifinals. On Tuesday, the Jays beat the Retrievers of UMBC 13-6 thanks to a 10-0 run over 38 minutes by the Jays.

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Mental health is an issue we must face

INSIDE

In the last few months, two NBA All-Stars, DeMar DeRozan and Kevin Love, have opened up about their mental health issues, kick-starting the conversation about mental health among athletes.

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Athlete of the Week: Eric Yoo

Freshman Eric Yoo of the men's tennis team won both his doubles and singles matches to lead Hopkins to a 5-4 victory over the Washington and Lee University Generals last weekend.

PAGE B11

W. Lacrosse wins two straight at home

The Blue Jays defeated Boston University and Hofstra University at Homewood Field. The Jays beat Boston 18-11 and beat Hofstra 15-6 for their third straight win, pushing their record to 6-2.

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INSIDE

Despite faults, VAR will be used in 2018 World Cup



John Abili
Sportpinion

In recent months, discussions about video technology have come to the forefront in the soccer community. In 2016, we saw the first soccer competition use video assistant referee (VAR). VAR is made up of a team of three people, including at least one current or retired referee, that watches replays of important plays and decisions.

For VAR to be called into action, either the ref on the field has to request for it, or the VAR team recommends its use. The only situations that can be viewed by VAR are goals, mistaken identity (the ref giving a yellow or red card to the wrong player), red cards and penalties. In the end, the head ref always has the choice of whether to stick to his or her original call or go with VAR's suggestion.

So far, VAR has been tested and fully implemented in several leagues and competitions in Italy, the United States, Germany and England. Major international

tournaments such as the FIFA Confederations Cup and the FIFA U-20 World Cup used VAR last year.

In almost two years of VAR being used, this new system has seen some positives and negatives. There is no doubt that several bad decisions have been averted because of this system (although many argue that the ref should have made the correct call from the start). However, VAR has and will continue to pose more problems that outweigh any potential benefits.

First and foremost, VAR delays the speed of game. One of the many reasons soccer fans love the sport is the speed of the game, but VAR has seen delays upwards of four minutes on multiple occasions, with wrong calls still being made.

On top of this, several players have already complained that VAR gets called into action too often. The original intentions were for VAR to be used only when there is a clear error on the part of the main ref.

Another problem with VAR is posed by the multiple angles and speeds that it can show a replay in. Sometimes, a ref is already in perfect position to make a decision. However, if a ref sees a slower replay or a different angle of what happened, a tackle or legal fight for possession of the ball might look harsher than it really was. When

VAR is used in this way, it only results in another delay of game and wrong decision making.

Despite being in use for less than two years, VAR already has made many errors. In perhaps the craziest case so far, a team in a lesser known league won the ball in their own half, progressed forward, scored and had their goal cancelled in favor of a penalty being awarded against them.

Whether or not the penalty should have been awarded in the first place, the ref should not have been allowed to use VAR after the play had ended.

Just last summer, Germany played Chile in the Confederations Cup Final. During the match, Chilean player Gonzalo Jara brutally elbowed Timo Werner of Germany as he was trying to win the ball. After reviewing the incident via VAR, the ref only gave Jara a yellow card, despite the blatant and aggressive foul.

Last year in a match between Real Madrid and Al Jazira, Carlos Henrique Casemiro of Real Madrid scored a legal goal. Initially, the ref allowed the goal to stand, but after reviewing the goal with VAR, he called it offside. Real Madrid player Karim Benzema was in an offside position when Casemiro's shot was taken.

Because Benzema did not interfere with play, the goal should have stood, but

using VAR disallowed a very standard goal.

Just a few weeks ago, Manchester United faced off against Huddersfield Town in an FA cup game. In the first half, Juan Mata scored the second goal for United, but because Mata appeared to be slightly offside, VAR was used (even though it can only be used for "clear errors").

After review, the ref called the play offside. During the broadcast for the game, viewers were able to see what the VAR refs saw. The replay was stopped just as the pass to Mata was made, and the VAR refs drew lines on the screen to make the decision easier.

However, the lines on their screen were not parallel with the opposition box, meaning that the refs were making the decision from the wrong angle. If the opposition box was used as reference, Mata would appear to be onside.

Almost two years after its first use, VAR has disappointed. From delays in play and continued wrong decisions, it seems that the only solution to VAR's problems is to completely stop its usage. Unfortunately, this is not going to happen anytime soon, as VAR has already been confirmed for the 2018 World Cup. Despite its many downsides, VAR is here to stay.



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Freshman Therese Olshanski placed seventh in the mile run at Nationals.